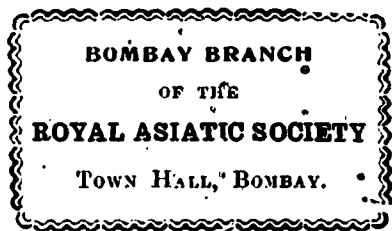




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THE

ENGLISH PRISONERS IN RUSSIA.

A PERSONAL NARRATIVE

OF THE

FIRST LIEUTENANT OF H.M.S. TIGER;

TOGETHER WITH

AN ACCOUNT OF HIS JOURNEY IN RUSSIA, AND HIS INTERVIEW

WITH THE

EMPEROR NICHOLAS

AND

The Principal Prisons in the Empire.

BY

ALFRED ROYER, LIEUT. R.N.

THIRD EDITION.

LONDON:

CHAPMAN AND HALL, 193, PICCADILLY.

1854.

The Author reserves the right of Translation.

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PRINTED BY

JOHN WATSON & SONS, LTD., LITTLE QUEEN STREET,

LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS



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PREFACE.

THE present Work has been written with no political object, but simply with a view to record the Author's impressions of a country which he has recently visited, under circumstances of no little interest at the present moment, and to satisfy in some measure the curiosity naturally felt by the British Public, with regard to all events connected with the scenes of the War in the East.

London, September, 1854.

CONTENTS.



CHAPTER I.

	PAGE
Fogs in the Black Sea.—The Tiger aground.—Discovery of our situation.—Russian ladies witnesses of the catastrophe.—Their danger.—Signals to the consort ships.—Attack of musketry.—Exertions to lighten the ship.—Fire of the Artillery.—The guns cast into the sea.—The Russian red-hot shot pierce through the hull.—The vessel on fire	1

CHAPTER II.

Captain Giffard wounded by a shell from a twenty-four-pounder.—The firing ceases on both sides.—The Third Lieutenant sent on shore.—The First Lieutenant follows, and is detained by the Russian General.—Osten Sacken's questions.—The wounded conveyed to the hospital.—Compliments paid by the Russian General to the bravery of the enemy.—Quarantine regulations.—“Libre Pratique.”—Men landed	9
---	---

CHAPTER III.

	PAGE
The Vesuvius and Niger open fire.—The crew of the Tiger continue disembarking.—The consort ships retire.—Efforts to save the wreck.—Robberies committed.—The fire continues to smoulder in the ship.—An explosion on board.—The crew marched off to Odessa.—Halt near the city.—Sympathy of the inhabitants	16

CHAPTER IV.

The Quarantine Establishment.—Russian allowance to prisoners increased.—Signor Annibale Cambiaggio, the Interpreter.—Quarantine Guard.—Two shipmates buried.—General Osten Sacken.—His religious turn of mind.—Madame Osten Sacken.—Her kindness and sympathy.—General Annenkoff.—General Krusenstern.—Baron Rollsborg	23
--	----

CHAPTER V.

Permission to communicate with the fleet by letter.—Removal to a convenient house.—Scanty supply of water at Odessa.—The sailors form a Band.—Uncertainty as to our fate.—Instance of the Russian soldiers' forbearance.—Regulations to keep order.—The head Guardian of Quarantine presented with a ring by the crew.—The fleet expected to avenge the capture of the Tiger.—Arrival of two English steamers.—Letters from home.—Chevalier Ceschini, Austrian Consul-General.—Captain Giffard in a precarious state	30
--	----

CHAPTER VI.

More liberty allowed.—A Greek thief.—Foolish restrictions of Quarantine.—The Quarantine Board.—Dr. Tovey and	
--	--

Mr. Coruthers.—Dr. Arpa.—Dr. Pogoschof.—A wounded Scotchman saved by the Russians during the Bombardment.—A headless body discovered on board the Tiger.—The head found.—Message from the General.—Our explanation.—Reports in the English newspapers.—Number of guns on board the Tiger.	39
---	----

CHAPTER VII.

Second arrival of the Furious and Vesuvius.—Two Russian brigs taken.—Exchange of prisoners offered.—Liberality of the Russian authorities.—Colt's revolvers.—Russian armourers.—Censorship.—Quarantine probation lengthened.—Hopes of an exchange of prisoners.—Apprehensions of having to pass the winter in Russia.—Civilized enemies and barbarian allies	45
--	----

CHAPTER VIII.

Death of Captain Giffard.—Dr. Domville, the Medical Officer of the Tiger.—The funeral conducted with military honours.—The Russian Generals attend the ceremony.—Orders of the Emperor respecting the officers and crew.—Midshipmen ordered to proceed to the University of Moscow.—Despondency of the crew.—Exchange of prisoners	52
--	----

CHAPTER IX.

Pratique.—Baron Rollberg.—Sig. or Luigi Mocchi.—The Emperor's liberality.—Attentions of the Russian Officers to the Officers of the Tiger.—Description of Odessa.—Bust of the Duke de Richelieu.—Imitation Palais Royal.—Opera.—Performance of Verdi's 'Rigoletto.'—The two factions.—La Cardoso.—'La Donna è mobile'	59
---	----

CHAPTER X.

PAGE

The Officers dine with Chevalier Ceschini.—Railroad from Moscow to Odessa.—Prince Woronzoff.—Commercial prosperity of Odessa.—Rescript of the Emperor.—Interview with General Osten Sacken.—Madame Osten Sacken. Visit to Generals Appenkoff and Krusenstern.—My travelling companion.—Start for St. Petersburg.—Take leave of my messmates	65
---	----

CHAPTER XI.

We start in a Tarantas.—Contradictory reports.—Our supply of provisions.—Mr. Maberly.—Bad weather.—The Russian Samovar.—Its usefulness.—Tea in glass tumblers.—Cross the river Boug.—Nikolaiev Dockyard.—Russian Squadron in the Boug.—The Russian and Dutch flags.—Hôtel de Londres.—Manner of washing . . .	72
---	----

CHAPTER XII.

Leave Nikolaiev.—Post-houses improve as we approach Moscow.—Elisavetgrad.—Prairie land.—Tumuli.—Boundless plains or steppes.—The Yamtchik.—Way-posts.—Rate of travelling in Russia.—Waggon.—Russian words for directing the driver.—Nature of the country	84
---	----

CHAPTER XIII.

Alexandria.—Farm on the road.—Environs of towns and villages.—Our stock of wine.—Water-tanks on the tops of the houses.—The river Dnieper.—Civility of the chief of the Post-house.—Krementchoug.—The country north of the Dnieper.—Young plantations.—A Russian Courier proceeding to Odessa.—The Telega	92
---	----

CHAPTER XIV.

PAGE

Poltova.—Style of building.—Kharkov.—Carriages made to hold beds.—Bielgorod Nunnery.—Drunkenness not prevalent in Russia.—Nearly upset.—Recruits.—Russian Military Colonies.—Pilgrims to Moscow.—Respect of the populace	100
--	-----

CHAPTER XV.

Kou'sk.—A dirty inn.—Our carriage repaired.—The Government high-road to Moscow.—Pilgrims tripping.—Great concourse of people.—The Russian Clergy.—Bishops.—Orel.—Churches in Russia.—Toulà.—Cavalry horses.—Turkish prisoners content to remain in Russia.—An English engineer.—Armourers of Toulà	108
--	-----

CHAPTER XVI.

Farm-house on the road.—Kvass.—Religious feelings of the people.—First view of Moscow.—Comparison of Moscow and Constantinople.—Hôtel d'Angleterre.—The Kremlin.—University College.—The Head Professor.—The Bazaar.—The railway to St. Petersburg.—One train a day.—Comfortable carriages.—Leave Moscow	117
--	-----

CHAPTER XVII.

Tver on the road.—Tver.—Numerous churches.—An acquaintance.—Refreshment-rooms at the Stations.—Meet three English residents in St. Petersburg, proceeding to Moscow.—Mr. Sharman's delicacy of proceeding towards me.—Time allowed at the Stations.—Regularity in the arrival of trains.—Deliberate movements	125
---	-----

CHAPTER XVIII.

PAGE

Arrival at St. Petersburg.—General Sitinin.—Hôtel Dé-	
mouth.—Colonel Montandre.—The Minister of War.—	
English uniform.—The War Office.—Ante-room of the	
Minister.—Interview with Prince Dolgorouki.—Remain	
at the hotel.—Return of the ague.—The Emperor's orders	
respecting me	130

CHAPTER XIX.

Mr. Miller, the British Vice-Consul.—The Nevskoi-Pro-	
spekt.—Toleration in Russia.—The Kazan Church.—The	
Admiralty.—Droshkies.—The Rev. Dr. Law.—The Aca-	
demy of Arts.—The Gardens at St. Petersburg.—Mili-	
tary Bands.—The twilight.—Statue of Peter the Great.—	
The Senate House.—The Russian Synod.—Canals.—The	
Winter Palace and the Hermitage	140

CHAPTER XX.

The fever and ague again.—A Russian physician.—Panaceas.	
—The Emperor commands me to proceed to Peterhof.—	
Leave St. Petersburg by steamer.—Batteries.—The Rus-	
sian Fleet at Cronstadt.—Second interview with Prince	
Dolgorouki.—The Gardens at Peterhof.—Residence of the	
Cesarovitch.—Private Residence of the Emperor	149

CHAPTER XXI.

Proceed to Strelna.—Alexandria.—The Ducal drawing-room.	
—The Grand Duchess Alexandra Joscowna.—Her affa-	
bility.—Her Ladies-in-Waiting.—Arrival of the Grand	
Duke Constantine.—His conversation.—His acquaintance	
with naval affairs	154

CHAPTER XXII.

	PAGE
The exploits of the Arrogant and Hecla.—Remarks and questions of the Grand Duke.—The Grand Duchess.—Her love of the English language.—First view of the Emperor.—Summoned to his presence.—Prince Lichtenstein.—The Grand Dukes Nicholas and Michael	161

CHAPTER XXIII.

The Emperor Nicholas.—The Order of St. George.—Personal appearance of the Emperor.—His kindness of manner.—He grants me my liberty.—Prince Dolgorouki's congratulations.—The Royal Chapel.—Music.—Sir Charles Napier near Cronstadt.—Russian Recruits.—The grounds at Peterhof	168
--	-----

CHAPTER XXIV.

Interview with Prince Dolgorouki.—Return to St. Petersburg.—General Sitinin.—Visit of Colonel Montandre.—Another attack of fever and ague.—Leave St. Petersburg.—Preobrajenskaja.—Degouzy.—Concourse of people on the road.—Nature of the country.—Kovno.—Itinerary of the route from St. Petersburg to Warsaw.—Expenses of travelling	176
--	-----

CHAPTER XXV.

Enter Poland.—Deliberate travelling.—Great demand for horses.—A Russian Officer proceeding to join his regiment.—Lomza.—Interruptions on the road.—Arrival at Warsaw.—Cross the Vistula.—Count Rüdiger.—Arrangements for departure.—Search for my passport.—Take leave of Mr. Sharman	183
---	-----

CHAPTER XXVI.

	PAGE
Leave Warsaw.—An officious fellow-passenger.—Petrikaw.	
—Czenstochowa.—A spy.—Custom-house.—Export of silver.—The Police Agent.—Szczakowa.—Mislowitz.—Breslau.—The Opera there.—Mdle. Wagnek.—Berlin.—Hanover.—Cologne.—Calais.—Old England	189

NARRATIVE

OF THE

FIRST LIEUTENANT OF H.M.S. TIGER.

CHAPTER I.

Fogs in the Black Sea.—The Tiger aground.—Discovery of our situation.—Russian ladies witnesses of the catastrophe.—Their danger.—Signals to the consort ships.—Attack of musketry.—Exertions to lighten the ship.—Fire of the Artillery.—The guns cast into the sea.—The Russian red-hot shot pierce through the hull.—The vessel on fire.

EARLY in the morning of the 12th of May, 1854, three weeks after the bombardment of Odessa, in which Her Majesty's steam-frigate the Tiger had taken an active part, we found that our noble ship had grounded at about a hundred and fifty yards from the shore, four miles south of Odessa. We had parted from the Admiral and the fleet at noon on the previous day, in company with the Vesuvius and the Niger, on a cruise along the coast.

During one of the dense fogs so prevalent in the Black Sea at that season of the year, we had lost sight of our consorts; and although our course had been shaped with care to avoid danger, strong currents had carried the ship considerably to the westward of her reckoning. No land was visible; indeed we did not expect to see any, for we supposed we were much nearer to the Tendra Spit than to the mainland. Fogs like that in which we were lost occur sometimes off the coast of Ireland, but I have never seen anything to be compared with them in the Mediterranean. When I state that the end of the jibboom could not be seen by a person standing on the after-part of the deck, some idea may be formed of the visible darkness that surrounded us. Happily the weather was calm, so that the shock of the vessel, in striking upon, or rather between, two rocks (as was afterwards discovered by Russian divers), was so slight, that it was scarcely felt, and we imagined she had grounded on a sand-bank which we knew lay to the east of our course. Our anxiety to avoid this danger had induced us to bear more to the westward. Under the above impression, we did not anticipate much difficulty in releasing the ship from her position.

It was about half-past five o'clock when we ran aground; shortly after, the fog seemed to grow thinner under the influence of the sun's rays, and revealed, to our astonishment, high land on our

left. We then understood the critical position into which we had fallen.

As the fog cleared, we could distinctly see, under the curtain as it rose, the ripple of the limpid waves that broke upon the beach; and a small boat with two oars pulled across our bows close along-shore toward the city, evidently intent upon giving notice of the catastrophe; while just above, on the cliff, through the slowly disappearing fog, we could discover the well-known figure of a Cossack on horseback, with long lance in hand, no doubt meditating on the expediency of galloping off to announce the news to his superiors, of the grounding of a steamer on the coast. To increase, if possible, the interest of the scene, we could discern two ladies, with pink parasols, promenading in their garden, which reached the edge of the cliff; and these ladies, with many others who joined them later, were witnesses of all that occurred during the day,—looking on whilst the firing took place between us and the Russian troops.

It may be well conceived that we had too much gallantry to fire upon the ladies, and that we directed our guns solely against those who attacked us. But as the bright colours of their parasols were but dimly seen, they were once mistaken for fresh troops, and ran great risk of being shot at by our riflemen. Fortunately the officers on duty made the discovery in time to avert the danger from the ladies, who, following the bent of their

natural curiosity, were desirous of witnessing the attack. „ Little thought they that morning, on rising from their slumbers, what a scene of bloodshed and destruction was to be enacted that day, almost under their very windows,—which however could not be seen from the ship, on account of the height of the cliff. It was superstitiously imagined in Odessa that our misfortune was a judgement upon us, for the recent bombardment.

The Cossack rode off, but the ladies remained,—the former to collect the enemy's troops against us, the latter to witness the result of the combat. Let us charitably hope that the ladies had a further object in view, namely, that of rendering assistance to the wounded, and thus evincing that kind hearts exist in Russia, as all over the globe.

It was necessary to give notice of our situation to the consort vessels, and warn them of the danger they were approaching, as they were doubtless steering the same course. We therefore made the fog signal, by firing guns in quick succession, to inform them of our position; and it is possible that the first intimation of what had taken place reached the ears of the Governor of Odessa with the sound of our own guns.

As may be imagined, it was with no pleasant feelings that we contemplated our situation; for we were so close in shore, and so firmly aground, as to be deprived of the power of movement or resistance. We felt convinced that we should soon be

attacked by overwhelming numbers of artillery and musketry.

The attack was begun by the latter, the number of which we could not ascertain, as the Russians fired from under a bank, on that part of the cliff nearest to the ship: the balls came chiefly through the rigging, so that at the onset no one was killed.

During the firing the boats were lowered, and an anchor laid out, in order to draw the ship off after she had been lightened. Every exertion was made, and many things thrown overboard; but she was too firmly fixed on her rocky bed to be dislodged. There were a hundred and fifty men at work at the capstan; and this compact mass would have formed an excellent target for the musketry, but fortunately it was not visible from the shore, so that the fog was, to a certain extent, of use to us.

The cable being hove as taut as was prudent, without having moved the vessel, it was deemed expedient to prepare for resistance to the artillery, which we expected would soon open upon us.

The head of the vessel was the part nearest the shore; we stood pointing, as it were, with our jib-boom to the cliff, the shore bearing away to our left. It was therefore requisite to form a kind of rampart in the front part of the vessel: this was done by hanging the hammocks of the men, containing their beds and blankets, to a stout rope, from the rigging to the fore-stay on each side,

thus intercepting the line of fire from the cliff above. The hammocks afforded protection from the fire of the musketry, whilst our men were free to fire from below them. "

Many were the anxious looks we cast upon the standard compass, to discover the least symptom of movement in the vessel, consequent on the strain of the cable, which we kept at the highest point of tension. But, although the sanguine hopefully cheered, and cried, "She moves!" thus encouraging the exertions of the seamen at the capstan, we were soon made aware of the fallacy of our expectations.

About half-past nine the guns of the enemy opened fire. They consisted of eight twenty-four-pounders, which had just arrived from Odessa; they were placed in a position nearly ahead of us on the cliff, so that their shot could rake the ship fore and aft, our guns at the same time being useless, as they could not be trained sufficiently forward to bear on the shore. It was therefore deemed expedient to send the men below, to cast the guns, now become useless implements of war, into the sea, in order to lighten the ship, and enable her to respond to the force applied by the cable and capstan on the anchor laid out to the southward. The men were also thus kept out of unnecessary danger below the upper deck, while they effected the object we had in view,—that of lightening the vessel,—by throwing sixteen guns

overboard. Still, to our great disappointment, the vessel did not move.

In the meanwhile we had contrived to bring one of the guns on deck, to bear upon the cliff, from under the hammocks, in response to the artillery opened upon us from above; but it may be easily imagined how useless was the firing upwards in such a situation.

The firing of the Russians, before it obtained the proper range, was chiefly in the rigging, which was much cut up, by it. Soon however it began to tell upon the hull of the ship with terrible effect, each discharge either lodging the balls in her, or passing clearly through into the sea. If the vessel had not been already resting upon the ground, she must have sunk by reason of the many shot-holes, which we could not have plugged up fast enough to counteract the effects of the enemy's fire.

Red-hot shot now began to be thrown into the hull, and we soon discovered that the vessel was on fire in two places;—in the pinnace, which was in the centre of the ship, and had not been let down; also in a very dangerous position below.

The ball that took effect had entered through the starboard or right-hand bow of the ship, and lodged in the store-rooms, leaving a clear round orifice, through which we could see the land as through a port-hole.

As the store-rooms adjoined the fore-part of the powder-magazine, it was necessary to make every

possible exertion to extinguish the flames; so that we had to call off all the men that could be spared from other duties to man the pumps. Four of these were worked without intermission, and succeeded in partially subduing the fire; three of the pumps were then turned to play into the powder-magazine; and these continued to the last a work which is not so easy as may be imagined.

CHAPTER II.

Captain Giffard wounded by a shell from a twenty-four-pounder.

—The firing ceases on both sides.—The Third Lieutenant sent on shore.—The First Lieutenant follows, and is detained by the Russian General.—Osten Sacken's questions.—The wounded conveyed to the hospital.—Compliments paid by the Russian General to the bravery of the enemy.—Quarantine regulations.—“*Libre Pratique*.”—Men landed.

At a quarter-past ten o'clock a shell from a Russian twenty-four-pounder struck the bow-port close by the only gun that could be brought to bear upon the shore, and exploded, disabling a midshipman and three of the men serving the gun. Such was the effect of the bursting of this shell, that, in addition, it carried off the left leg of Captain Giffard, who was standing by the gun, and wounded his right leg. One of the pieces of metal broke the telescope that he held under his arm, and ten or eleven other pieces cut his clothes and inflicted severe bruises.

The midshipman, poor young man ! had both his legs carried off, and lived only a few hours after an amputation had been effected by the surgeon on board : he died on shore whilst being trans-

ported to the hospital: he was a distant relation of the Captain, and bore the same name.

William Trainer, the captain of the gun, lost his left leg, and died whilst being removed to the hospital, after proper attention had been paid to him on board. William Tanner, serving at the gun, was severely wounded in the thigh, but recovered after being some time at the hospital. Thomas Hood, the powder-boy, about fourteen years old, received a severe wound in the stomach, and lived only a few days after reaching the hospital; he had already been wounded by a stray shot, but continued to serve the powder from the magazine.

Thus disabled, our firing ceased; upon which the Russians discontinued their fire. The wounded were taken down to the gun-room, to be attended by the medical officers; and the Captain, who retained his faculties, ordered the Russian ensign to be hoisted, in token of surrender. The Third Lieutenant was next sent on shore with a flag of truce, to communicate to the officer commanding the Russian forces the fact of our having struck; as, in consequence of the fog, the flag was not discernible from the shore.

On landing he was signalled back, as it he was infringing the laws of quarantine; and, being unable to make himself understood by the officer in command of the party on the beach, he sent back the boat for some one acquainted with the French language. I, as Commanding Officer, then

landed, in order to come to an understanding with the General. I was received on the beach by a junior officer, and allowed to proceed, under a strong escort, along the path leading to the cliff, where stood General Osten Sacken. The General was closely attended by two foot-soldiers and one quarantine guard, who was provided with a brace of pistols, to prevent contact:

Osten Sacken, mistaking the Russian flag for a signal to our consorts, asked what the flag was for, and was informed that it was the sign of surrender. His next inquiries were regarding the force on board, the number of the wounded, where the steamer had been bound to, and whether we had formed part of the bombarding squadron on the 22nd. To all these questions he received satisfactory answers, except to that regarding the destination of the ship. I informed him that the Captain was severely wounded, and that I was not acquainted with the orders under which we were sailing.

Application was forthwith made for convenience to transport the wounded to the hospital. The General immediately complied, despatching an officer to hasten the arrangements; and in less than half an hour a car and some easy-chairs appeared, which probably came from the villa of Mr. Cortazzi, the Mayor of Odessa, on whose grounds the battery and troops were posted, to the sad destruction of his flower-beds.

These troops were about three thousand in number, and consisted of a battalion of infantry and some squadrons of cavalry Lancers; but their apparent number was very much increased by an immense crowd of people, who hurried down from the city in all kinds of conveyances, and whose curiosity and ignorance of the danger they were incurring led them into contact with the horrors of war.

The General took an opportunity of passing a high compliment on the bravery of the Captain, officers, and crew, and, of his own accord, granted them permission to land any private property they might possess; urging the necessity of immediate compliance, under the apprehension of a rescue from the consort ships, which, he imagined, might have been apprised of our situation by the signal guns we had fired in the morning. Indeed he must have thought the whole fleet was at hand, as he was most pressing, and declared that he should be compelled to open fire again if the men were not landed forthwith.

I wrote a few lines with a pencil to the commanding officer on board, requesting him to land at once. A Russian junior officer thrust his sword through the note, conveying it in this manner to the beach, with all the due forms of quarantine regulations, and there consigned it to another Russian officer, who spoke English, and who had made his appearance after my landing, having been

stationed there as a medium of communication between the troops and the crew. Strange to say, this note never reached its destination. But in the meanwhile I was enabled to communicate the General's orders from the top of the cliff, about thirty yards from where the General stood, and whence I could be heard by those in the vessel.

General Osten Sacken could not for some time conceive what I could mean by a request that I made, that he would set aside the encumbering rules of quarantine: he imagined such a step to be perfectly impossible; and, when awake to the real truth, that such a desire was expressed, as a means of facilitating further communications, his astonishment vented itself in an assurance that the Emperor himself would be compelled to submit to the stringent laws of this tyrannic power over the liberties of every new-comer into the country. The request I made was that we might be allowed "*libre pratique*;" these two words the General kept repeating several times,—"*Libre pratique? libre pratique?*"—knitting his brows, as if he wished to summon his faculties to the comprehension of the phrase, which had no place in his understanding. At last, turning to some of his aides-de-camp and the quarantine authorities standing by, he repeated, for the tenth time, "*Libre pratique?*" as much as to say, "What is '*libre pratique*,' gentlemen?" Some one spoke to him

in Russian, on which he appeared to understand, and gave me the above assurance.

Osten Sacken appeared satisfied on seeing the boats put off from the ship with some of the crew on board; but he kept anxiously peering through his opera-glass into the fog, with an expression of apprehension, lest the fleet should come to wrest his prize from him.

The two paddle-box boats brought on shore about a hundred and eighty men, but were not allowed to return to the ship; although at first the General had expressed a wish that some of the men might be retained for the service of the boats.

The General put some questions regarding the calibre of the guns on board, and turned to an artillery officer, to ask if they could indeed be of the size mentioned; he then commanded him to take a party of Russians, and go on board.

This booted and spurred field officer, who was not a young man, was very awkward in executing the order; he however contrived, somehow or other, to get into one of the two boats, which stood rather too high on the beach for one to stride into with straps to his nether clothing. When he had cleared the shore, with a crew of about forty or fifty Russian infantry, and was "well at sea," and while they were counting the men that had been landed, the fog cleared up a little, and two dark objects were seen approaching the scene of action, at a distance of about half a mile. The

consternation of the Russians may be imagined; the boat was immediately hailed to return, and the prisoners were marched off under a strong guard towards Odessa, the latter operation being far the easier of the two. The Niger and Vesuvius now came to the rescue.

CHAPTER III.

The Vesuvius and Niger open fire.—The crew of the Tiger continue disembarking.—The consort ships retire.—Efforts to save the wreck.—Robberies committed.—The fire continues to smoulder in the ship.—An explosion on board.—The crew marched off to Odessa.—Halt near the city.—Sympathy of the inhabitants.

THE firing from the Vesuvius and Niger began about half-past eleven or twelve o'clock, and was returned from the shore, whilst the disembarcation of the remainder of the ship's company continued.

The officers on board the steamers could not distinguish, in the crowd on the beach, their fellow-countrymen, who were bravely carrying up the wounded in the midst of a shower of shells, which burst in all directions: to avoid which, the Russians had been trained to lie down flat, on a signal being given them to do so; and occasionally the remarkable scene was exhibited, of the jolly tars proceeding on their route up the cliff, regardless of the explosions and shot from the ships, whilst several thousand Russians were lying flat on their faces.

The firing from the consort ships still continued,

without doing any material injury, after the whole of the crew, with the wounded, had been landed and marched off to the Quarantine establishment. When however the true state of the case was discovered by the officers of the *Vesuvius* and *Niger*, they retired to make their report to the Admiral: they perceived that it was impossible to get the ship off, and useless to expend ammunition on a bare cliff; for the Russian troops had now retired, being of no further service, and the artillery only remained.

When the firing had ceased on both sides, the Pilot of Odessa, Luigi Mocchi, was sent on board, to superintend the disembarcation of everything that could be got on shore. He had previously rendered assistance in landing the Second Lieutenant and some of the few hands that remained on board waiting for the return of their own boats.

All the vigilance of the Russian authorities was insufficient to prevent the depredations of fellows who found their way on board and ransacked the ship; so that, when the professed restoration of the private property of the officers and men took place, little or nothing of value was forthcoming. As a proof of the violent hands of these robbers, it may be mentioned that a desk, which had been left open, was broken up, but the pieces, religiously smoked, were delivered to the owner, *minus* the contents, which consisted of some money, and docu-

ments of use only to the proprietor. A box too, with a Bramah lock, had been forcibly opened, and only pieces of the sides, which were also perfumed in quarantine, restored,—a proof that the articles had been destroyed by thieves, and not by the fire in the ship.

The Captain's plate-chest, which was landed with his servant, was forcibly taken from the latter on the beach, and could not afterwards be traced, although Major Arcoudinski, the chief of the police at Odessa, made every inquiry regarding it.

The Pilot, employed in getting up the guns and clearing the vessel, repeatedly brought various articles to the Quarantine Mole; and these, after fumigation, were handed over to those to whom they belonged.

As the fire had not been perfectly extinguished, it continued to smoulder; and in the evening, about seven or eight o'clock, when we were lodged in the Quarantine establishment, we heard an explosion, which we hoped would have deprived the Russians of their booty. It was however only partial, as there remained but a small quantity of powder in the magazine in an ignitable state. The vessel continued burning to the water's edge, leaving only its two funnels as gaunt evidence of its identity, in the sad scene of destruction.

The crew was formed into a long column five or six deep; and, accompanied by a strong guard, we started on our march to the Quarantine esta-

blishment, which appeared much further than it really was, and took us upwards of two hours to reach, although only about four miles in a straight line; the weather being oppressively hot, and all hands much excited and fatigued. We had been without refreshment of any kind since the previous evening; nor was it till seven o'clock that we had our first meal in captivity.

Besides our escort of mounted Cossacks, with their long lances, we were accompanied by a great many droshkies on each side of the road, filled with fair ladies and bearded gentry, who did not allow the lower classes to monopolize the curiosity of the country, and crowded as near to us as the troops would allow them. The villas on each side of the road also swarmed with eager faces as we passed; but they abstained from every expression of exultation or triumph.

Our guard, in addition to the mounted Cossacks, consisted of about two hundred men of the 31st Regiment of Infantry: these poor fellows were so overpowered by fatigue, that it was found requisite to halt on the way for some time, to give the troops and the prisoners a little rest. The former, indeed, required repose more than the latter, for they were so encumbered with the knapsacks containing their extra clothing, their great-coats, belts, ammunition, swords, and muskets, their heavy boots, and long thick coats reaching to their ankles, that they were not in a condition to march quickly

over the ground in such sultry weather, and were really as much to be pitied as their prisoners.

On our way to Odessa, we met a battery of twelve large guns (twenty-four-pounders probably), with all their ammunition-waggon, advancing to the scene of action, where we could still hear the cannonading in the distance. Although each gun and waggon was drawn by four horses, and accompanied by horsemen, they proceeded at what appeared to us an extremely slow pace, considering the excitement by which they might have been supposed to be actuated.

Our halting-place was an open space in a field, on the left of the road, near the rampart of a ruined fortress, in which is situated the Quarantine establishment; close to us were the acacia-trees, which form a continuous avenue round the city. The crowd still pressed on the troops surrounding us; and here we first experienced that kindness of which we afterwards received so many proofs, during our residence among our little-known *enemies*.

An old officer, accompanied by some ladies, came forward, and, taking possession of the baskets of the cake-vendors and of those selling bread, handed the contents to our men; and, at the request of the First Lieutenant, water and wine were procured, with which the men were refreshed. Whether the cakes were paid for, of course we cannot say; but of this we may bear witness, as a fact, that as the

bearers went away, others came with fresh supplies of pastry, which, however palatable, was not sufficiently substantial to appease the hunger of so many beef-eating Jack Tars, who required something more solid after so desperate an engagement.

The example of the old officer was followed by many others, who kindly came forward with whatever cakes they could procure from the crowd, and distributed them among the men. One, in particular, offered to the officers of the ship the brandy and water which he carried with him for his own use; but, as the weather was sultry, they prudently refused it; he then sent off to the nearest house, which was within a few hundred yards, and procured some light wine instead. Cigars and cigarettes were handed round in abundance to all who chose to smoke; but care was taken, in allowing the prisoners to light them, that the regulations of quarantine should not be infringed by the contact of the paper cigarettes.

While thus halting, a piece of paper on which we had written a list of the crew that were present, and which was no longer needed, was torn up and thrown to the winds. One of the Russian officers, perceiving this, gave orders to a sergeant, who selected one of the soldiers, and, causing him to give up his accoutrements, sent him amongst us to pick up all the little bits of paper, lest contagion should be communicated, either physically

or politically. And thus this man had to perform quarantine the same number of days that we had, although, without any undue assumption or harshness, we might have been ordered to pick up the pieces ourselves.

CHAPTER IV.

The Quarantine Establishment.—Russian allowance to prisoners increased.—Signor Annibale Cambiaggio, the Interpreter.—Quarantine Guard.—Two shipmates buried.—General Osten Sacken.—His religious turn of mind.—Madame Osten Sacken.—Her kindness and sympathy.—General Annenkoff.—General Krusenstern.—Baron Röllsberg.

HAVING halted for half an hour, we proceeded to the Quarantine-ground, which is built with much more regard to the comfort of its imprisoned occupants than many such places in Europe. It is situated on the top of a cliff upwards of a hundred feet in height, facing the sea, within the ruined citadel, of which traces still exist; it is within a quarter of a mile of the town of Odessa, which lies on the same level to the northward. One of the wings faces the east, and the other the south, so that both have a beautiful view of the sea from the top of the cliff. A zigzag road leads down the cliff to some magazines near the beach, in connection with the Mole and Custom-house; the latter is between the Quarantine establishment and the harbour, from which seven English merchantmen escaped, and went out to join the fleet, during the

bombardment. The rooms are good, and, what is more remarkable, well furnished, the chairs being of damask, covered with chintz; there were sofas, bedsteads, and card-tables, and, in short, we were provided with every convenience. The Captain had one of the wards, consisting of four rooms, which he shared with the medical officers; and eleven other rooms were allotted to the remaining officers, twenty-two in number, with eight servants. The men were stowed in the wing facing the south, and in a vacant powder-magazine which had belonged to the uncompleted citadel. There were rows of acacia-trees and lilacs, that enlivened the grass-plot, and rendered the place very agreeable at that time of the year, with spring in all its freshness. In the evening we usually left our rooms to enjoy the cool air upon the grass-plot, drinking and smoking at leisure, and counting the days of our probation, which were restricted to twenty-one.

So large a number of occupants had no doubt put the quarantine authorities out of their usual routine; and it was not one of their least difficulties to provide so many mouths with sufficient and suitable supplies.

The Government had, in the first instance, to find a person who would contract to furnish the necessary rations to the men; but as the Government allowance for prisoners was calculated on a scale adapted only to satisfy Turks, it was insuf-

sufficient for the artificial wants of more civilized beings. On the first evening the men had only wine and bread, both of which however were served out in sufficient abundance and of excellent quality. The table of the officers was more liberally supplied with meat and vegetables.

In the meanwhile the Government decided on increasing the amount of allowance to each man. The contractor was soon enabled to establish a regular and liberal provision of meat, soup, and bread, with which the men were perfectly content, although no wine or grog was allowed.

Fifteen kopeks (sixpence) a head per day was what the law allowed for the food of each prisoner, of all grades. But the Council decided on raising this sum to fifty kopeks (1s. 8d.) for each officer, and half that amount for each seaman. In a country where provisions are comparatively cheap, this was sufficient for every requirement.

I am happy to have this opportunity of expressing our obligations to Signor Annibale Cambiaggio, who was appointed interpreter by the Government, and whose kind and gentlemanly attentions relieved us of many difficulties in which we might have been placed, without his opportune and willing assistance. He is an Italian, and well acquainted with several languages, in which English and French are included. Acting up to the orders he had received from his superiors, he deemed that he would be best fulfilling their wishes by a

genial consideration for all our little wants. A perfect gentleman, and highly educated, he considered no trouble too great that would conduce to our comfort. The estimation which he enjoyed by the Generals tended greatly to facilitate any arrangements that he might deem requisite, in furtherance of his object; and he secured by his assiduity the gratitude and esteem of all the persons under his charge.

It may be conceived that, after all the fatigues we had undergone that day, sleep was not long in closing our eyelids on the straw bedding provided for us; and we awoke the next day to the consciousness of our situation, and to the sad duty of interring our two shipmates who had died on the previous day, fighting in vain, alas! for their liberty.

The quarantine guard was composed of old pensioners or invalided soldiers; many bearing medals for service done in the days when they were in the prime of their faculties, and for deeds of bravery against the Circassians. Some of them were selected for "guardians" in the different wards; others mounted duty as sentries, porters, messengers, etc. by day, and were relieved at night by younger troops of the line, who were better adapted to endure fatigue and exposure to cold. To this conclusion we were led by the vigorous lungs we heard exerted during the night in communicating to each other that all was well; for sounds so

continuous and clear the sexagenarians could never have emitted. The guard was changed after dark, so that we had no opportunity of seeing the men to whose care our persons were entrusted during the night; and the next day we could only see our old men lounging about, as if they had been on watch for some hours.

About a dozen of these men accompanied the procession to the burial-ground, which is a grass field surrounded by high brick walls, to the south of, and adjoining, the Quarantine-ground.

As the only Protestant clergyman at Odessa was a Lutheran, and could not speak English, we decided upon adopting the usage on board ship, and the burial ceremony was performed by me, as commanding officer. It may afford some gratification to our friends to know that, in the confusion of disembarking, many had brought away with them their Prayer-books and Bibles, in preference to other property which remained on board.

On our return to the establishment we were visited by some of the Russian generals and officers, who came to inquire after our welfare.

General Osten Sacken paid daily visits to the Captain and officers, and to the hospital. He was much gratified at seeing William Tanner (who had been wounded, and who recovered) occupied, whenever he visited him, in reading his Bible; and he expressed great approbation of his conduct, being himself of a religious turn of mind. Indeed,

such were his kindly feelings and his religious tendency of thought, that he never visited the establishment without going to the graves of his enemies, where, absorbed in meditation, he might be seen crossing himself and offering up prayer to the Lord of Hosts. Madame Osten Sacken, his amiable consort, vied with the General in attentions and kind consideration for the prisoners and the wounded, whom she supplied with jellies and delicacies from her own house; and when it pleased God to take the powder-boy, Thomas Hood, to himself, she caused an iron railing to be placed round his grave, and planted trees to overshadow it. Such was her consideration, and the vivid feelings which she had lately experienced at the loss of a son, of the age of Thomas Hood, that she appeared to feel the more deeply for the parents of the lad, and of the young midshipman Giffard, to whose mother she sent a gold locket containing some of his hair,—a sad consolation in her bereavement.

General Annenkoff, the Governor-General of Odessa, and General Krusenstern, the son of the celebrated navigator of that name, and Military Governor of the place, Baron Rollsberg, Governor of the fortress, and many other officers, whose names it was impossible to retain, but of whom we have the most vivid and grateful recollection, were unremitting in their considerate and solicitous attentions; and if any difficulties were experienced, these arose more from the many orders

given by them, and from their over-anxiety to use the powers allowed them by their position to promote our comfort, than from any kind of forgetfulness or neglect.

CHAPTER V.

Permission to communicate with the fleet by letter.—Removal to a convenient house.—Scanty supply of water at Odessa.—The sailors form a band.—Uncertainty as to our fate.—Instance of the Russian soldiers' forbearance.—Regulations to keep order.—The head Guardian of Quarantine presented with a ring by the crew.—The fleet expected to avenge the capture of the Tiger.—Arrival of two English steamers.—Letters from home.—Chevalier Ceschini, Austria, Consul-General.—Captain Giffard in a precarious state.

GENERAL Osten Sacken, of his own accord, granted us permission to communicate with our friends by writing, provided all the letters were sent open, through the authorities, and did not touch upon politics; we had thus a great source of comfort in hearing directly from those most dear to us.

A few days after our landing, as the empty powder-magazine was not considered by the Medical Board to be a healthy residence, the men were all removed to a large house which had been occupied by a school, and was capacious enough to accommodate the whole of the ship's crew. The scholars had been transferred to the country, in the environs of the city. This establishment was about a quarter of a mile from the place still occupied

by the officers, and outside the ruined fortress, at the foot of the glacis; it formed the corner of a large street in the suburbs of the city. Sentinels were posted in front of the two sides, and a strong guard was established on the opposite side of the street, facing the entrance. There was abundant room in this building, one floor remaining unoccupied; and the courtyard before the house afforded space in which the men could take the air, and exercise themselves with the school-boy games of their early days. One great comfort was a pump of good water, which gave the men an advantage over their officers, the latter being provided with this element in casks brought to them daily. The town of Odessa is scantily supplied with good water, which the inhabitants are obliged to buy from carriers, who bring it in barrels from some little distance.

The scholars' bedsteads, although rather short, were not otherwise objectionable to the men, who accommodated themselves to them, being accustomed to shorten their stature when sleeping in their hammocks. A piano, found in one of the rooms, was soon taken possession of by those who could play on it; and, with the assistance of a violin bought by subscription from a player in the orchestra at the Opera, and a flute that one of the men had brought away with him, a smart little band was organized, to which they danced merrily of an evening, whilst enjoying their pipes; and thus

wiling away the time, like true Jack Tars, made the best of their inaction.

As a remarkable proof of the power of excitement on the physical strength of the sailor, it may be stated, that often, after a hard day's work, the sound of the fiddle will bring out some young votary at the shrine of Terpsichore, who will go through such rapid evolutions with his feet as to astound the looker-on, persisting therein for twenty minutes or half an hour, as if his very life depended on them, and concluding without evincing any over-fatigue after such violent exertion; and others will then get up and emulate, if not surpass, the first dancer. It was fortunate that the men could have recourse to such innocent and healthy diversion, as it checked any tendency to brooding over their fate, and useless longing after their homes.

We were critically situated, as we could not be informed of the probable duration of our detention; and were thus left in a blank state of mind, easily conceived by any one who has felt the emptiness of uncertain expectations. As no Russian prisoners of war had at that time been made by the English, we had no reason to hope for release by exchange of prisoners.

The good effect of habits of order and discipline was strikingly shown, and in a manner very creditable to the men. As they were deprived of the surveillance of their officers, who were in another

building, at some distance, and could not see them without a written permission, they appointed, of their own accord, one of the petty officers, who could speak French, as Superintendent; and he, in conjunction with the others, established regulations for the cleanliness and order of the rooms, arranged the messes, abolished smoking in the bedrooms, and prescribed the extinction of lights at ten o'clock at night. These arrangements,—which tended greatly to their personal comfort, and secured the goodwill of those to whose care they had been consigned,—were submitted to me for my approval, and any infringement of the rules was reported to me. Culprits might have been treated according to the Russian scale of punishment; but the authorities kindly permitted the officers to impose such penalties as they thought sufficient. It was found that exclusion from the society of their messmates for a few days was sufficient to bring any of the men to a proper sense of their misconduct. The quarantine regulations rendered solitary confinement impossible, as a guardian must always be in the same ward with the guarded.

Besides the sentries stationed in front of the building, there were always a great many of the people of the town hanging about till a late hour, to satisfy their curiosity by the sight of the prisoners. Among these many kind-hearted women brought bouquets of flowers, throwing them into

the rooms, to the great amusement of the men, and establishing a telegraphic communication by signs and the recondite language of flowers. As an instance of the forbearance and good-nature of the Russian soldiers, I may relate that on one occasion, as the women pressed too near the building, at the windows of which the men were standing, they were ordered off by the sentry, and the men were signed to retreat within: one of them did so, but returned with a glass of water, which he poured over the astonished functionary, much to the amusement of the by-standers. One might have expected some disturbance or remonstrance on the part of the soldiers; but no notice was taken of the affair, either by them or by the ruling authorities, who attributed the deed rather to Jack Tar's inherent delight in a joke, than to any malicious or improper feeling.

As an instance of the satisfaction the men felt at the kindly manner in which they had been treated, I may mention the fact of their having, at the end of their twenty-one days' probation, subscribed, of their own accord, to present a ring to one of the Commissaries of Quarantine,—a fine, hale old man of eighty-four, who had spent his life in that branch of the service.

The natural expectation of the Russian authorities was, that the Allied fleet would come to revenge the destruction of the Tiger by bombarding Odessa a second time; and they were kept on the

alert by constant telegraphic signals from different points on the coast. We could often see anxiety portrayed in the faces of officers who came to look out from a ruined tower within the Quarantine enclosure, for the appearance of vessels in the distance. We were thus kept in a constant state of excitement by the expectation of rescue. About the 16th of May, Signor Cambiaggio brought us the welcome intelligence that two English steamers were in sight, and that he was going out to meet them; and about the same time Count Maidhem, one of Osten Sacken's aides-de-camp, was sent by the General, to advise us to prepare our letters for our friends on board the fleet. About ten o'clock, after partaking of as much breakfast as our anxiety would permit, the two telescopes saved from the Tiger were put in requisition, and many an anxious gaze was directed toward the horizon. At last, much to our gratification, two vessels were seen steaming round the point: they had been visible for some time from the Russian look-out on the coast, although not in sight of the Quarantine establishment, before which they now stopped, to communicate with the shore. We soon discovered them to be the Furious and the Inflexible, carrying the Russian flag at the main, and a white flag of truce at the foremast. A boat sent out by the Russians, with Signor Cambiaggio on board, met the boat of the Furious half-way between the vessels and the shore; a short parley

was held, and the boats then separated, and returned..

After the due formalities of perfuming and opening and inspecting the letters and despatches, they were delivered to us. Happy were those (and few the disappointed) who received kind letters and messages from their friends in the fleet, and were re-assured, in their confinement, of the sympathy of their fellow-countrymen !

We owe to the officers of these vessels a debt of gratitude we shall not easily forget, for the liberal manner in which they contributed to our wants, by supplying us with clothes and money. The latter was collected by subscription among them, and freely sent to us, without any stipulations. I trust our pecuniary obligation will some day be cancelled ; the recollection of their generosity will be indelible.

We were informed that we should have a further opportunity of communicating with the steamers by letter, and were allowed to prepare our answers ; but a personal interview between the captain of the Furious and the officers of the Tiger was interdicted, for political reasons.

In the course of the afternoon the First Lieutenant of the Furious landed, with a large stock of blankets, flannel, cloth, soap, tobacco, etc., which were admitted without demur into the fumigating room, and duly consigned to us. Among other things, a cask of cocoa had been sent, by mistake,

for a cask of soap: this caused us some inconvenience, as, not having sugar enough to sweeten the cocoa, we could not use it, and yet were unable to dispose of it. "

The Russians were much struck with the great care taken of the men by their superiors, when they saw the abundance of materials landed for their comfort; and it consoled the men in their isolation, convincing them that they were not forgotten, or likely to be neglected, by their country. The receipt of the above-mentioned articles gave occupation to the men in their inactivity; and they were soon enabled to appear in decent apparel, made by themselves.

The Admiral also sent me permission to draw bills on England for paying the wages of the men, and for the purchase of any necessary articles of clothing. The bills were negotiated by the Chevalier Ceschini, the Austrian Consul-General, to whom, at the Admiral's request, Prince Leiningen (a relation of Her Majesty, serving as a mate on board the Britannia flag-ship in the Black Sea) wrote in German, to give the necessary credit, as we had no representative at Odessa. We experienced no difficulty in these money transactions, having merely to pay one and a half per cent. for discounting the bills.

The Chevalier kindly afforded us his assistance in negotiating private drafts on our friends at home; although, for political reasons, he was

obliged to be circumspect in his demeanour toward us ; and I shall have further occasion to mention his polite attentions, as far as he could prudently exercise them.

The two vessels steamed away about six o'clock that evening, to rejoin the fleet, and left us sad at our separation from active duties, which we were all longing to resume. Our friends on board were much afflicted at having to report the precarious state in which our beloved and respected Captain was lying, with great uncertainty as to his future fate.

CHAPTER VI.

More liberty allowed.—A Greek thief.—Foolish restrictions of Quarantine.—The Quarantine Board.—Dr. Torey and Mr. Soruthers.—Dr. Arpa.—Dr. Pogoschof.—A wounded Scotchman saved by the Russians during the Bombardment.—A headless body discovered on board the Tiger.—The head found.—Message from the General.—Our explanation.—Reports in the English newspapers.—Number of guns on board the Tiger.

A FEW days after the visit of the steamers, Signor Cambiaggio represented to the authorities the inconvenience felt by the officers on account of the limited space allowed them for exercise: this consisted only of the yard in front of the building allotted to us; now however we were allowed to pass into the grass-plot in front, which is bounded by the cliff. No one who has not experienced the irksome restraint of quarantine regulations, can imagine the pleasure we experienced at this extension of our liberty; limbs and lungs had now free play, as we could enjoy a lengthened promenade, with fresh air, in front of the establishment; and here, as already observed, we used to sit in the evenings and sip our tea, discussing the events

that came to our knowledge, and the news contained in the recent letters from our friends.

It was amusing to see the shifts to which the guardians were put in keeping quarantine ; but the utility of their precautions was by no means always clear to our apprehension. For instance, when money was brought to us from the city, in return for our bills, it was put in water before being conveyed to us ; and when we had any document to deliver to the "clean" guardian, he would not take it directly from our hands, but did not mind picking it up with his hands if we placed it on the ground, proceeding with it then to the fumigating house !*

In one instance, a little dog belonging to the Captain, having run at one of the guardians, seized him by the skirt of his coat : upon this the man had to take off the garment, to be fumigated ; and the little dog was carried into the yard and washed

* A ludicrous circumstance occurred, which amused us much at the time. A Greek, who had contrived to steal some things from on board the Tiger, was caught in the streets of Odessa wearing a pair of trousers belonging to one of the officers, whose height was at most four feet six inches, and whose corpulence rendered his shape more like that of a top than anything else. Let the reader fancy these inexpressibles on the body of a lank, thin fellow, at least six feet high ; the waist of the garment being three times the size requisite for his body, and the length barely reaching below his knees ! I do not know what penalty was awarded to the thief, but he was no doubt severely punished ; indeed the laws of quarantine would have permitted of his being shot.

all over! After this we were careful to restrict the motions of poor Toby, in order not to be led by him into an infringement of quarantine; for this might have caused a further detention, through coming in contact with persons who had begun their days of purification after us. Of these there were a few, consisting of passengers who had arrived in neutral vessels, or captains desirous of entering the city after conforming to the requirements of the quarantine laws. The latter were under the direction of a Board, among the members of which were two Englishmen, who had been established many years in Odessa,—Dr. Tovey, of Manchester, who had married a Russian lady, and Mr. Coruthers, brother of the English Consul at Taganrog. These gentlemen were as kind to us as they could be under the restraint of quarantine regulations.

The chief medical man is Dr. Arpa, a Maltese, who was assisted by Dr. Pogoschof; these gentlemen rendered every assistance to our medical officers in succouring the sick and wounded. Another instance of the humanity of the Russian authorities was afforded by their kind treatment of a Scotchman whom we found in the hospital; he belonged to an English merchant ship, and had been severely wounded by a stray shot from one of our vessels at the bombardment of Odessa. During the action, the authorities, on hearing of his mishap, were considerate enough to send a party of soldiers

to convey him to the hospital, where every possible care was taken of him. He had had the inner part of his thigh carried off, and was labouring under the effect of a partial lock-jaw. On our landing he was made over to the care of our medical officer, was fast recovering when we last saw him, and was eventually cured.

About the 20th of May a circumstance occurred which I must stop to relate: it will serve to give an idea of how little is known in Russia of English laws, and of the manner of administering punishment in the navy. Signor Cambiaggio called, by desire of General Osten Sacken, to inquire whether we had decapitated the pilot of our ship for having run her ashore. We could scarcely understand what he meant, until he explained himself by stating that a headless body had been found after we had left the ship, dressed in an English sailor's clothes. Nothing had been said on the subject until, about a week after, the head was discovered in another part of the vessel.

Signor Cambiaggio expressed a kind of apology on the part of the General for making the inquiry; he said that "of course we had every right to exercise the powers which our laws might grant in decapitating the man;" all he was desirous of knowing was, whether such had been the case. We assured him that this could not be, and that it must have been the body of some one who, having been successful in robbing the vessel, had returned to

it in the garments he had contrived to carry off, and in search of fresh plunder; he must have been overpowered by some competitor, who had killed and decapitated him. It was some time before the Russian authorities could bring their minds to accede to this explanation. All that we could do, we did, by pointing out the pilot, who was a Turk, and was in quarantine with us; and to certify that none of our men were missing. Still, we were constantly cross-questioned on the subject by other Russian officers, who imagined that we had some object in concealing the fact.

Such are the circumstances which led to certain reports on this subject in the English newspapers, and which we are anxious to rectify, as they caused much pain to the relatives of the Captain; by imputations on his character, which will be contradicted by all who knew the gentleness and humanity of his disposition.

Many were the stories promulgated at the time by the minor members of the press, anxious for anything to attract readers. Among these I may mention one statement, wholly destitute of foundation, in which it was asserted that, previous to his death, the Captain had called the officers and all the crew around him, and, expressing his regret at having struck his flag, declared that, under other circumstances, he would have blown up the ship rather than be made prisoner, or something to this effect.

Another affair on which we were cross-questioned by the authorities was regarding the apparent inaccuracy of our statement of the number of guns which the *Tiger* carried: It was observed to us, that we had declared they were sixteen, while the port-holes were of a greater number. We had to explain that some vessels are pierced for more guns than they carry, in order to afford opportunities of moving them into favourable positions, when required. This answer satisfied his Excellency General Osten Sacken ; but I am not aware whether the whole, or any, of the guns were got up by the persons employed to bring to Odessa all that could be saved from the wreck.

CHAPTER VII.

Second arrival of the *Furious* and *Vesuvius*.—Two Russian brigs taken.—Exchange of prisoners offered.—Liberality of the Russian authorities.—Colt's revolvers.—Russian armourers.—Censorship.—Quarantine probation lengthened.—Hopes of an exchange of prisoners.—Apprehensions of having to pass the winter in Russia.—Civilized enemies and barbarian allies.

ABOUT the 25th, we were again gratified by the sight of the English flag, on board the *Furious* and *Vesuvius*. At the first visit the blue ensign had been hoisted at the peak; this time, in consequence of the promotion of the Admiral in the interval, it was the white ensign. This excited some curiosity in the Russian officers, who were not aware of the distinction,* but were satisfied by our explanation. The steamers brought us letters from home, and a stock of clothing for the officers and men, together with plenty of soap and tobacco; but what gratified us most was the intelligence that

* The smallest circumstance is not considered too trivial to be made the subject of a despatch; in a conversation the writer afterwards had with the Grand Duke Constantine, he stated that it had been reported to him that Sir Charles Napier carried a blue flag at the main, instead of at the fore, the usual position of a Vice-Admiral's flag.

two Russian brigs had been taken off the coast of Circassia, on board of which were a hundred and seventy-nine soldiers and nine officers. The Admiral had offered to General Osten Sacken to exchange these for a part of the crew of the Tiger. As he had already liberated upwards of a hundred Russian merchant-seamen without ransom, he naturally inferred that the arrangements proposed would be acceded to by the Russian Government. General Osten Sacken made no objection, but was obliged to wait for further instructions from St. Petersburg.

As the boats that landed the letters were not allowed to stay ashore, and as the Russian boats paid only one visit to the Furious, we had no opportunity of writing our answers, or of giving information respecting the state of the Captain and men, except by such letters as were ready when the boat arrived; these were taken off at once, and the vessels steamed away again to join the fleet.

Among the articles landed from the Furious for the officers, were two boxes which had been transferred from on board the Britannia, and addressed by friends in England to two of the young midshipmen. The contents of these boxes might very properly have been confiscated,—one of them containing a sword and a revolver; the other, one of Colt's revolving pistols. The Russian authorities however, considering them private property, and knowing that they had not been sent as con-

traband of war, decided upon detaining them only so long as the owners were in captivity ; and General Krusenstern ordered them to be sealed up until the young men should be free to take them away with them, and gave a receipt, identifying them in the number of the register. The weapons were much admired by the Russian officers, among whom we saw none who possessed any like them ; but these arms have, no doubt, since become more common, as there were many of them on board the Tiger, and they will have been imitated at least, if not equalled, by the Russian armourers.

Russian manufacturers are competent to make good arms, and usually do so when specimens are required to be submitted to the authorities ; but, in consequence of the speculation which pervades many departments of the Government, very inferior articles are supplied to the troops. In one instance I was shown an officer's sword bent in a circle, which he unbent again as if it had been made of pewter or tin.

All the books found on board the Tiger were taken to the Censor's office at Odessa. A dispute however arose between this official and the clerks of the Custom-house, as to whose duty it was to decide upon the expediency of their being restored to us ; and we did not obtain possession of them until we were liberated from quarantine.

Some works of light reading, which were ad-

dressed to the officers by friends in England, were forwarded to St. Petersburg, and never reached the persons to whom they were sent, some time being required for them to pass the ordeal of examination established by the censorship.

It may be as well here to warn those who may have friends in Russia situated as we were, of the disservice they may render them by sending newspapers containing political matter. In the box containing the books just mentioned, which had been forwarded to the capital for examination (at least so we were informed), there were a number of papers, chiefly of the 'Times,' and one local periodical; these were fumigated, and delivered to the person to whom the box was addressed, as waste-paper, having served merely to fill up the spaces between the books. On pratique being given, the Custom-house officers, when examining our effects, discovered these papers, and were disposed to make them the cause of a dispute. If I had not applied to the quarantine authorities for evidence of these papers having been received through the proper channel, an unpleasant dilemma might have resulted;* for, as it happened, one of the scraps contained a severe stricture on

* A copy of the 'Illustrated London News,' which contained a plan of the fortress of Sevastopol, from the able sketch of Lieutenant O'Reilly of the Retribution, had been mutilated by the authorities, one-half being cut off before it was delivered to the person to whom it was addressed.

the conduct of the Emperor of Russia. Quires on quires would have been wasted in reports on the subject, and much trouble occasioned to the quarantine authorities, as well as to the person in whose possession the paper was found, had not the matter been hushed up.

At first we were led to expect that our quarantine would be only of fourteen days' duration; but before that time had elapsed, we were informed that three weeks would be the period required; an answer from St. Petersburg could not be expected in less than that time, when the will of the Emperor would be known respecting our future destination, which now became a matter of great interest and discussion.

A doubt was expressed whether we should be removed from Odessa, as there was some prospect of an interchange of prisoners. Still, as it was possible that we should have to travel into the interior of the country, we all occupied ourselves in making the necessary preparations: it was amusing to see the number of needles at work; even among the officers ingenuity was greatly in request, to increase their scanty stock of apparel.

The prospect of passing the winter in we knew not what part of Russia, was far from cheering; and our apprehensions as to the cold to which we should be exposed were by no means allayed by an examination of the *kist* of one of the guardians. This man was airing his traps, and displayed to

our astonished view articles for covering the head, nose, and chin, of which we before had no conception, and which we certainly did not imagine could be required so far south. How much worse would it be if we were taken into the interior, to say nothing of the dreaded steppes of Siberia! But such apprehensions were vain; the kindness we had already experienced sufficed to assure us that no unnecessary harshness or severity of treatment was intended by our civilized enemies.

At first, unacquainted with the Russian character, and apprehensive of ill-treatment in case we were removed to some out-of-the-way place in the interior of the country, the officers resorted to various ingenious contrivances to secrete the spare money they possessed. Some sewed it in the stiff collars of their jackets; others wore the coin in belts round their waists, etc. But that such precautions were perfectly needless, will be seen in the sequel. I afterwards traversed the whole of Russia, often leaving my portmanteau in the carriage upon the high-road, while reposing at the inn during the night, without losing the smallest trifle. Indeed the sympathy everywhere shown us was remarkable; and the conduct of our civilized enemies afforded a striking contrast to that of our barbarous allies, to whose assistance our country has generously proceeded. While staying at Constantinople we were often spat upon in the streets by the Turkish children, who certainly would not

have felt such an abhorrence of us, if it had not been instilled into them by their parents, who no doubt expressed in private the feelings which were thus aped and reflected by their little counterparts.

CHAPTER VIII.

Death of Captain Giffard.—Dr. Domville, the Medical Officer of the Tiger; his scientific operations.—The funeral conducted with military honours.—The Russian Generals attend the ceremony.—Orders of the Emperor respecting the officers and crew.—Midshipmen ordered to proceed to the University of Moscow.—Despondency of the crew.—Exchange of prisoners.

ON the 1st of June, about half-past seven in the morning, we had the misfortune to lose our beloved and much-lamented Captain, who sank under the effect of his wounds. His death had been foreseen by the surgeons, as the wounds had never shown a disposition to heal, although every means had been used to effect that object.

The medical officer of the Tiger, under a sense of his responsibility, and with a desire that the friends of the Captain should be assured that every exertion had been made to save him, requested the General, a fortnight previous to his decease, to appoint a consultation of the first medical men in Odessa. This took place about the 20th; Dr. Wagner and several others met in the Captain's ward, and approved of all that had been done, as well as of the measures proposed to be adopted.

It will doubtless be satisfactory to those interested in the fate of the persons who lost their lives on board the *Tiger*, to be informed that one of General Osterff Sacken's aides-de-camp, Baron Grothus, casually informed me that the medical men of Odessa had visited, in the dead-house, the bodies of those who had died of wounds, and had expressed to the General their admiration at the scientific manner in which the necessary amputations had been performed.

I have said that our lamented Captain was beloved by all on board; he was not less esteemed and regretted by the officers of the fleet, who all deplored his loss. To the last he was cheerful, although it was evident that he had little hope of recovery. Dr. Domville read to him portions of the Scriptures daily, at such times as he thought him in a fit state to listen; this evidently afforded him great consolation, and in his last moments rendered him more resigned to his fate.

The sad intelligence of his death was immediately communicated to the General, who sent an aide-de-camp to assure us that every regard should be had to our desires in paying the last honours to his remains.

At first, being in quarantine, we supposed that the funeral would have been of a private nature; but as the General expressed a wish to evince, by a public demonstration, his regard for the Captain, who by his gallant conduct had secured the es-

teem of his enemies, it was decided that the burial should take place with every honour due to his rank, and the General intimated to us that he would comply with any arrangements we might deem expedient.

Having brought on shore with us a white ensign, we were desirous of using it for a pall, as is customary on such occasions in honour of an officer of the Captain's rank; the General acceded to our request, but, on second thoughts, sent an aide-de-camp to request we would waive this point of etiquette, as he was apprehensive the troops might make some demur at firing the three volleys in honour of the deceased, if they saw the English flag; we of course complied, on this appeal to our consideration for the prejudices of the people.

The Government furnished us with a handsome coffin, which was mounted on a platform, fitted to a field-carriage, and drawn by four horses. In consequence of the roughness of the weather, the funeral did not take place the next day; in the interval, a guard of honour was posted at the doors by the authorities, the sentinels standing with arms reversed; and all the Generals and officers of the army at Odessa paid a visit whilst the corpse was lying in state.

On the 3rd of June, about nine o'clock in the morning, the troops assembled at the gate of the Quarantine establishment, and formed in the order of procession. All the officers and men of the

ship's company attended, following immediately in the rear of the car, and a fine body of cavalry preceded it; next came the Russian Generals, with a brilliant staff of aides-de-camp, and other officers; after them followed a regiment of infantry, with arms reversed, preceded by their band playing some Russian hymn; and the procession was closed by a battery of horse artillery, drawn in honour of the occasion.

Although we had had pratique on the 2nd, we had not yet left the Quarantine establishment, so that we had a long walk round the ramparts of the city to reach the cemetery, in a secluded part of which the grave had been prepared. The weather was extremely sultry, and the inhabitants of Odessa crowded round the procession, although the Cossacks did what they could to keep the road clear: but there was not the least expression of exultation on the part of the multitude; on the contrary, sympathy was everywhere manifested.

The service was performed by myself, the responses being given by the officers and men; and a Lutheran clergyman attended, who closed with a prayer in German. Three volleys of musketry were fired by the infantry regiment, as is usual at military funerals; and the troops returned to their quarters, leaving only the guard to accompany the prisoners back to their quarantine residence. The officers remained to see the grave closed, and covered in with stones, which had been

prepared, and made to fit together, so as to sustain the weight of any monument that may hereafter be erected; and we then took a long and sad farewell of the remains of our lamented Captain, hoping that we might each fall as honourably, in the service of our country.

About this time we were made acquainted with the decision of the Emperor regarding us. I was ordered to proceed to St. Petersburg; the other two Lieutenants and the Doctor were to follow me a few days after as far as Riasan, a city about a hundred miles to the south-east of Moscow; and the remaining officers and men, divided into two companies, were to follow to the same place. The officers were to be conveyed in vehicles; the men were to proceed on foot, by slow marches, by which they would accomplish the journey in about a month.

The Emperor directed that the four youngest midshipmen should be sent to the University of Moscow, where they would be provided with everything requisite, and were to be placed under the especial care of the Director of the College; it was supposed that they would there meet with the congenial society of youths of their own age, who belonged to some of the first families in the empire, this University being under the special patronage of the Royal Family. Such were the intended arrangements, which however were afterwards in some respects changed by circumstances.

The Russian authorities, conceiving that the men might be in want of sufficient clothing (although the officers had declared that they were fully satisfied with the state of their apparel), ordered that each man should have allotted to him a great-coat, such as is worn by soldiers in Russia, of coarse grey cloth, reaching to the ankles, and double-breasted, together with a pair of thick loose boots, in which to make the journey; and, as it might be expected that sailors, from their cramped-up life on board ship, would not be able to undergo the fatigues of this long tramp without some casualties, waggons were to be provided to carry the baggage of the crew, and to assist those who might be unable to support the fatigue of a journey of so many hundred miles. Many of the men, in fact, were very desponding, as they were ignorant of the nature of the country, and of the distance they would be required to travel daily; indeed, the contemplation of so long a march was not cheering, as they apprehended that the kind treatment they had hitherto experienced might be diminished when separated from their officers. Their apprehensions however were needless, as the offer on the part of the English Admiral, for an exchange of prisoners, had been accepted; and the men were detained in the building they had hitherto occupied, only until the arrival of the Russian prisoners. This took place about a month after, and all received their liberty, with the exception of thirty,

for whom no equivalent could be offered, and who were removed to Riasan, as had been originally intended, where they will await the chances of war. Doubtless, now that so large a number of prisoners have fallen into our hands by the taking of Bomarsund, they will soon be restored to their friends.

CHAPTER IX.

Pratique.—Baron Rollsborg.—Signor Luigi Mocchi.—The Emperor's liberality.—Attentions of the Russian Officers to the Officers of the *Tiger*.—Description of Odessa.—Bust of the Duke de Richelieu.—Imitation Palais Royal.—Opera.—Performance of Verdi's '*Rigoletto*.—The two factions.—La Cardosa.—'*La Donna è mobile*.'

As we were now in free pratique, it was requisite that the officers should be removed to the city, to vacate their quarters for others who might require them. Baron Rollsborg, the Governor of the fortress, called upon me, and took me in his carriage to view several houses which had been offered to the Government, giving me my choice. The house selected by me was the one nearest to that occupied by the men,—in an adjoining street, not more than a hundred yards distant. This house was in a fine open situation, and had in front of it a church and a nunnery; the occupants of the latter had been removed fifty miles into the country at the time of the bombardment of Odessa. At the back of the premises, which were provided with every convenience (a well included), there was a rather extensive garden; the whole was the property of

the pilot before-mentioned, Signor Luigi Mocchi, a man of considerable property, and well deserving of the consideration he enjoyed in Odessa.

On our release from quarantine, Signor Mocchi paid us an official visit, on which occasion he wore two large gold medals, presented to him by the Emperor, in token of commendation for his intrepidity in saving the lives of a large number of men who were in danger of wreck on the Mole. On one occasion he carried out, in a large boat, anchors and cables, and enabled fourteen vessels to ride out a heavy gale, in which they incurred great risk of running on shore. These exploits were hieroglyphically chronicled in a series of rude drawings, hung round the apartments of our house; but the tale they told had been previously related to me by impartial friends of the old pilot at Odessa.

Thus we see that, in Russia, not only are deserving foreigners recompensed for their services, but allowed to enjoy the fruits of their industry unmolested by the Government; and not unfrequent is the notice bestowed by the Emperor upon the most humble individual in the army or navy whose good conduct may merit reward. We frequently saw privates bearing several medals, bestowed on them for meritorious deeds or long services: they received a double encouragement, by honours conferred upon them and by gratuities in money, of all of which due notice is given in the

official Gazette. This system tends to attach the men to the service and person of the Emperor, to whom they look up as the unbiassed umpire in their emulation for distinction. 9

A guard was posted at the door of the house, with orders to go on any message we might desire; and, whenever we wished to visit the town, one or the other of the aides-de-camp of General Osten Sacken was immediately ready to accompany us in a carriage which he would provide for the occasion. This ready compliance with our slightest intimations, by gentlemen of high standing, like the two brothers Barons Grothus, was irksome, inasmuch as we felt ashamed to put their good-nature to the proof; still they were unremitting in their kindness, and took us wherever we wished to go. We were thus enabled to see something of the town.

The city of Odessa, although only of some sixty years' standing, has been transformed, in that short space of time, from a fishing village into one of the most wealthy and populous seaport towns in Europe. There are many churches (Greek, Lutheran, and Roman Catholic), an Opera-house, a Bank, Exchange, Barracks, and other Government buildings; and the streets are long, straight, broad, and generally at right angles to each other. The largest Greek cathedral has a spire about a hundred and fifty feet high, and is covered with blue glazed tiles, which give it a remarkable lustre, and

preserve it from the effects of the climate. All round the city are boulevards, planted with a hardy kind of tree, the only one that will grow in this bleak district; it is of the family of the acacia, and very ornamental, although small, barely attaining a height of thirty feet. This is the customary promenade of the inhabitants, who resort also to the public gardens on the cliff, in front of some of the best houses of the city, where the military bands play of an evening in fine weather. Leading down to the Mole, are flights of steps along the face of the cliff. At the top, in an open space close to the gardens, a bust of the Duke de Richelieu has been erected on a pedestal, which was pointed out to us as having been much injured during the bombardment, to the regret of the inhabitants, who respect the memory of the Duke as one who was instrumental in the improvement of their city.

There is at Odessa an imitation of the Palais Royal of Paris, in which are many shops, well furnished with the luxuries and necessaries of civilized life, and first-rate cafés and places of refreshment. Near this is the Opera, which we visited, and were accommodated in the Governor's box; here we had the satisfaction of looking at the ladies through the identical opera-glass that had been used by his Excellency Osten Sacken, when watching the progress of the attack on the luckless Tiger. As may be readily imagined, we were not the least observed among the observers. The

audience was chiefly composed of the military, and among them was pointed out to us a young man who had recently been raised three grades in the army for his heroic defence of the battery at the Imperial Mole, which the Emperor ordained should henceforth bear his name; unfortunately I am not able to remember this appellation, but it will doubtless hereafter be familiar to every inhabitant of Odessa.

The Opera was sustained by a very fair company of Italian singers, who performed, on the borders of the Black Sea, Verdi's 'Rigoletto,' much to the enjoyment of the listeners, who, as is always the case, were divided in two factions, each maintaining the superior excellence of the favourite *Prima Donna assoluta*.

La Cardosa's Gilda had real merit, which was much enhanced by the peculiar circumstances under which we heard her in this remote part of the globe; and to this day the *refrain* of her solo in the First Act,—

"E pur l'ultimo sospir,
Caro nome, tuo sarà,"

still rings in our ear, and recalls the kindness we experienced at the hands of our enemies. The *finale* of the Duke, 'La Donna è mobile,' sung by a pretty good tenor, seemed to form part of the atmosphere as we left the theatre; it resounded all around us,—seeming to pervade the minds of the company as they dispersed.

I am not aware whether the Government supports the Opera by a special stipend to the manager; but we were informed that the person who was fortunate enough to obtain the Government contract for supplying the Quarantine establishment with provisions, is required to take charge of the Opera.

CHAPTER X.

The Officers dine with Chevalier Ceschini.—Railroad from Moscow to Odessa.—Prince Woronzoff.—Commercial prosperity of Odessa.—Rescript of the Emperor.—Interview with General Osten Sacken.—Madame Osten Sacken.—Visit to Generals Annenkoff and Krusenstern.—My travelling companion.—Start for St. Petersburg.—Take leave of my messmates.

ON the 6th of June, Chevalier Ceschini, the Austrian Consul-General, invited the Officers and the Doctor to dine with him; and, to prevent "mystification," he also asked two of General Osten Sacken's aides-de-camp, the brothers Barons Grotthus, to meet them.

The usual dinner-hour was four o'clock, but as on this day I was to take my departure for St. Petersburg, the guests were invited for an earlier hour. The party consisted of the father and mother of the lady whom the Consul-General had lately married, in addition to the guests above alluded to. Of course political matters were avoided, as dangerous ground. The conversation turned chiefly on the great advantages that would accrue to the country in general, and to individuals in particular, by the laying down of a railroad from Mos-

cow to Odessa ; this scheme was so far advanced that it only required the Emperor's signature, for the contractors, Messrs. Fox and Henderson, to commence it. The Emperor had postponed the enterprise during the war, although it was said that these gentlemen had agreed to disregard political differences.

Another interesting subject was the recent bombardment of the city, which was depicted in lively colours by Madame Ceschini, who informed us that her house was in the way of receiving much injury, but had fortunately escaped scatheless.

Prince Woronzoff, who had been Governor-General of Odessa, and who is known to be a great friend to the English, had a house on a point of the cliff nearest to where the Allied squadron was firing : his house received no fewer than thirty shots, and was much damaged ; he was thus one of the greatest sufferers in property, although, fortunately, he was himself absent, having retired to his estates.

The city of Odessa, in consequence of its increasing prosperity, is said to be regarded with jealousy by the people of St. Petersburg. The latter are apprehensive of losing in some degree their pre-eminence, in favour of a place which, on account of its local advantages, appears to draw much of the commerce of the country, and which, being a harbour for large shipments of grain, has attracted considerable wealth.

During our stay the authorities of Odessa received a Rescript from the Emperor, to which all due honours were offered: the troops turned out, salutes were fired, and bells were rung, in celebration of the Emperor's expressing his approval of the conduct of the inhabitants during the sad events attending the bombardment of the city.

After dinner the gentlemen proceeded to some gardens about a quarter of a mile distant from the Consulate. Here was a large café, in which was a huge barrel-organ, that played some fine pieces of music selected from different operas; it was an admirable means of regaling the guests with music second only to that of a perfect band. We here took leave of our amiable and intelligent host, regretting that circumstances prevented us from seeing more of him and his family: he kindly placed his carriage at our disposal, to take us home that evening.

On reaching our residence I was informed that General Osten Sacken desired to see me, at a villa belonging to General Lüders, which he was now occupying, close to the Boulevards. I forgot to mention that, on the previous day, we had called on the General to express to him the thanks of the officers and crew for the many kind and delicate attentions shown us by himself and his amiable lady. It was then that we had had the pleasure of being introduced to his son, who was just returned from a visit to Silistria, whither he had been sent by the

War Office at St. Petersburg, in which he was an *employé*. This gentleman was a young man of very pleasing manners, and spoke English perfectly. Madame Osten Sacken, of whose kindness we cannot speak too warmly, was indisposed; she was however able to see us, and she expressed great satisfaction at having in any way been able to render our stay agreeable to us. She is a lady of high intellectual attainments, and still retains traces of great personal attractions, which long suffering from ill-health has not removed. She was much pleased with the youngest of the midshipmen who accompanied us, and spoke to him in his native tongue with all the facility of an English lady, inquiring after his family and relations, and interesting herself in anything that might please him.

On the same day we also called on the other Generals, Annenkoff and Krusenstern, to take our leave and express our acknowledgments for their assiduous attention to all our wants. They were, pleased to compliment us on the defence we had made, and they trusted that we should be satisfied with their treatment of us during our further residence among them.

General Krusenstern offered to write to his friend the Governor of Riasan respecting us. He assured us that we should have every reason to be satisfied with him, and gave us a glowing description of Riasan and the country around, holding out the prospect of good sport in fishing in the

streams, for which we were provided with tackle. Our conversation with these gentlemen was carried on principally in French, it being chiefly among Young Russia that the English language is spoken with fluency. The Russian noblesse have for the last twenty years made a point of having English nurses for their children, thus instilling into their minds from their earliest infancy the language of a people they admire, and with whom they regret to have had any rupture of amicable relations.

But to return. On descending from the Chevalier's carriage we found Count Maidhem, one of General Osten Sacken's aides-de-camp, at our residence; by him I was introduced to Mr. F. Sharman, of the corps of Feldjäger, who had been selected to be my companion in my future peregrinations in Russia, and who was to take charge of me. This gentleman informed me that the General was waiting to see us; we started off together in the carriage which had brought us.

On entering the General's residence I was immediately ushered into his presence, and found him seated at a desk, in the corner of a dark room, holding in his hand a large square despatch, and waiting to consign it to my companion. He rose on my entrance, and expressed surprise at my being in uniform, as he expected to see me in travelling costume. I told him that we had just returned from Chevalier Ceschini's dinner party. He desired to know how soon I could be ready to

start, and I stated the hour of half-past nine. The General then, wishing me a pleasant journey, dismissed me with a brotherly kiss on each cheek, in token of goodwill; this is an honour which I generally contrived to avoid during my stay in Russia, but was sometimes taken unawares, and not able to escape the infliction.

The day appointed for my departure was the 7th of June; but as the General had stated in his despatch that I should start on the 6th, we were compelled to leave before midnight, in order to act up to the letter of the General's statement,—such being the rigorous requirements of official routine. My preparations were therefore not quite complete, as I had expected to start twenty-four hours later; but, by the assistance of the servant I had selected, Francis Domech, a Maltese, one of the crew of the *Tiger*, I was soon enabled to pack up the few things I required for the journey.

On the previous day I had paid a visit to the men, and charged them to continue in their good behaviour and keep up their spirits; I now took leave of my messmates, who remained at home to see me start,—all except two, who could not withstand the temptation of a party at General Rollsborg's, to which they had been invited, and where one of them fell under the artillery of Russian *willudes*, in spite of the protection he might have received from his elder and equally susceptible, but more prudent companion.

The Austrian Consul-General, Chevalier Ceschini, and the brothers Grothus, aides-de-camp of General Osten Sacken, called to see me before I left; and having shaken hands with the whole party assembled, among whom was our good old friend Signor Cambiaggio, we entered the carriage punctually at the appointed hour.

CHAPTER XL.

We start in a Tarantas.—Contradictory reports.—Our supply of provisions.—Mr. Maberly.—Bad weather.—The Russian Samovar.—Its usefulness.—Tea in glass tumblers.—Cross the river Boug.—Nikolaiev Dockyard.—Russian Squadron in the Boug.—The Russian and Dutch flags.—Hôtel de Londres.—Manner of washing.

MR. SHARMAN and myself occupied the interior of the carriage, whilst my servant sat outside with the coachman. This vehicle, called a "tarantas," had been purchased by the Government expressly for the purpose of taking us to Moscow, from which place it had only just arrived. It consisted of a coupé, to hold two persons, and a box in front for the driver and servant. These vehicles are strongly built, and not hung on springs, this being considered to render them less liable to accidents. Unfortunately, ours was much worn, and, as will be seen, broke down more than once before we reached our destination.

This springless varouche is drawn by three horses abreast, which are changed on the road, the length of the stages varying from ten to eighteen miles. The poor animals are small, and, as the

French would say, "Ne paient pas de mine;" but we found them, as John Bull would say, "good ones to go."

I must here stop to remark on the very contradictory statements that were made to me when endeavouring, at Odessa, before my departure, to obtain information regarding the arrangements necessary for my voyage; and that too by people who declared that they had just traversed the very same road. For instance, I was strongly urged to lay in a good stock of tea and sugar, as I should not find any on the way; and yet throughout I was enabled to procure them at every post-house. Then, again, I was advised by an officer, who had just arrived from Moscow, to buy a chain, to secure the luggage behind the carriage; as, if I used the cord, with which it was lashed, I must expect to have the portmanteaus stolen, which he seemed to think would occur even on our way out of the town. At the first large town (Nikolaiev) we accordingly bought a chain, which however, as it broke, was never used; yet, so far from having anything stolen from us, we never missed the smallest article, although (as has already been mentioned) our effects were left in the hind part of the carriage, which stood in the road in front of the post-house, while we slept within. I at first felt nervous about them, as the trunks contained money, and examined them every morning and evening; but at last I gained confidence by free-

dom from molestation, and no longer felt anxiety on the subject.

It is difficult to account for this incongruity in the reports of individuals who could have no interest in deceiving me, and who evidently were desirous of giving me the best advice their experience could suggest.

Among other comforts of which we laid in a stock, such as Bologna sausages, cheese, white bread, caviar, etc., there was a dozen of good sherry in stone bottles, with which our very kind friend Mr. Maberly, an English merchant at Odessa, had presented me. This gentleman, whose acquaintance I had the pleasure of forming during my residence in the town, on hearing me express a wish to obtain a Prayer-book, gave me his own; and I was furnished with a small Testament by Mr. Melvin, who supplied the loss of the fifty copies of the Bible, which the Society, whose agent he was, had sent from Constantinople for the use of the crew of the Tiger.

We had had beautiful weather up to the time of starting, and anticipated clear moonlight nights for our journey; but unfortunately the weather changed, and it began to rain previous to our departure, and continued unfavourable for several days. This was inconvenient, as we had made no arrangement to take the servant into the carriage with us, and he passed the first night wrapped in my greggo over his own clothes, which saved him

from being wet, although his post was not the most agreeable. The next day we were enabled to take him inside, by stowing away in a different manner the boxes entrusted to Mr. Sharman for the Grand Duke Constantine, which contained various articles taken from on board the Tiger, such as the open list of the ship's company, and Massey's Patent Sounding-Machine.

Our first check was at the barrier, which is at the entrance and *sortie* of every town; here Mr. Sharman had to show his passport, and we were questioned as to whether we had any contraband goods. Lace was one of the articles specified, and strange to say, I *might* have had some, if the box, the fragments of which had been restored to me, had not been plundered, as I had had occasion to purchase some at Malta.

We were at last outside the gates of Odessa, and pursuing our route along the shore of the Bay. During the night we had to cross several small inlets of the sea; these were very shallow, but extended some distance into the country. On one occasion the servant, much alarmed, awoke me, exclaiming, "Mr. Royer! Mr. Royer! the horses are galloping forward as fast as they can, and the carriage is going backwards!" The fact was, that, as it was blowing pretty hard at the time, the wind drove the surface of the water past the carriage in the direction we were going, which had the effect of making the servant, who was half-

asleep at the time, imagine that our progress was in the opposite direction to that which we intended ; and the splashing of the horses in the water, made them appear to be going faster than they really did.

We changed horses several times during the night, and at six o'clock in the morning stopped at a little post-house, standing bleak and solitary ; the wretchedness of the scene was much increased by the heavy rain that was falling. To attempt to retain the names of the post-houses on the road would be an impossibility, if not an absurdity. Considering the peculiar position in which I was situated, a natural delicacy prevented my keeping any strict account, particularly of places not even marked upon the postal maps supplied by the Government.

Here however we breakfasted, our tea being soon made with the assistance of the samovar. This is one of the most useful of Russian domestic implements, and very superior to our English urn. So common is it in Russia, and in such general use, that at the Exhibition of 1851 it was neglected to be produced among the objects worthy of notice. A funnel that passes through the centre of the urn, serves as a chimney to produce a draught of air, so that three pieces of charcoal, which are lighted outside the apartment, soon burn brightly, and in less than ten minutes the water boils, and is kept at the boiling-point as long as required.

This is a much more simple and easy contrivance than our English urns, which require the water to be boiling, and a large fire to be ready to make the iron red-hot; even then the water is not kept long in ebullition, and the whole requires much time and trouble: to say nothing of the additional advantage of being able, at the same time, to cook an egg, or even a chop, or at least, to keep your toast warm on the top of the funnel. It is very desirable that the samovars should be introduced into this country: and I feel sure that any one who will undertake to place them fairly before the public, and within reach of persons of moderate means, will add much to our home comforts, and will be amply repaid for his pains. No danger need be apprehended from the effects of the charcoal, as the smoke of three pieces (all that is required) is very trifling; and besides, as I have already observed, the fire being lighted outside the room, no evil effects could arise from it. The fact of their being in such universal use in Russia speaks volumes in their favour.

As I am on the subject of tea-making, I will remark, that in Russia, where so much importance is attached to this beverage, the teapot is placed on the funnel of the samovar, to keep the tea as hot as possible; and in some instances, when the samovar was in use in another room of the hotel, we were furnished with two teapots, one sitting on the top of the other, that the lower one, hold-

ing hot water, might keep the upper one hot, which contained the tea. Another observable circumstance is the Russian custom of serving tea in glass tumblers: Glass retains the heat better than earthenware, and this perhaps is the reason of its being preferred; with us however this would really be an objection; many a time have I burned my fingers, and wished I could be accommodated with a teacup, an article I never saw during my stay in Russia except at an English house.

As milk is not generally used by the Russians, who say that they leave such slops for the women, perhaps they prefer glass because it enables them to see the colour of the beverage they consume. Instead of milk, the juice and small slices of lemon, with an enormous quantity of sugar, are mixed with the tea; to which they occasionally add rum or brandy; so that, after all, it becomes in fact a glass of punch.

After smoking a cigar we proceeded on our journey. The roads had become very muddy, and the two outer horses, on each side of the one which bore the shafts of the carriage, splashed us in such a manner that we regretted not having brought veils with us, as had been suggested; for so frequently were dabs of mud thrown in our faces, that we at last desisted from wiping them off, waiting until we reached some place where we might perform a regular ablution.

The people of the country generally have cur-

tains to this kind of vehicle, and on my return from St. Petersburg the carriage in which I was conveyed was provided with them; but as the weather was then sultry, we preferred the clouds of dust to the confined air within the carriage, and drew them back. °

As we proceeded the weather cleared up; and about two o'clock we reached a pretty little village on the right bank of the Boug, where we had to cross over to Nikolaiev in a ferry-boat.

The cottages in this village were built with some pretensions to taste, and had gardens, with flowers; acacia and poplar trees also helped to render the scene attractive, after a drive through a district only partially cultivated, with a few corn-fields here and there, and the country extending for miles without a bush or hedge. Now and then we had passed a farmhouse or two; but generally there had been an absence of any signs of life.

The appearance of a Government courier generally quickened the senses of the people at the post-houses, nor was the influence of authority lost upon the boatman at the ferry; who, on seeing the aiguillettes worn by my companion, soon cleared the boat of other carriages which he was about to convey over the river, in order to forward ours without delay. ^

That portion of Nikolaiev which we saw was built on high ground close to the river. This town was once a place of consequence; but its commer-

cial prosperity must have been sapped by the rivalry of Odessa. Line-of-battle ships are still built here, and I had read in the papers of one having been launched soon after the battle of Sinope, and named in honour of that exploit; but I much doubt the truth of the report, as there did not appear to be any activity in the dockyard, and I saw the ribs of a large man-of-war, which would have taken more time to erect than had elapsed since the other was said to have been completed. I only saw at Nikolaiev a small steamer under repair.

It took us about half an hour to sail across the river. We passed six Russian men-of-war moored across the stream below the town; higher up there was a small Government schooner, and closer to the shore two Austrian merchantmen. This Russian squadron consisted of some frigates and corvettes in an efficient state, if we may judge from their appearance aloft. They carried the ordinary Russian flag, which consists of three colours, white, blue, and red, horizontally,* and not that usually borne by men-of-war. I cannot account for this apparent deviation from the general rule, but will relate the explanation given me by an officer at Odessa, on my inquiring how it was that none of the

* The Dutch flag has precisely the same colours, but the order is different, having the red first, white next, and the blue at the bottom. The Christians of Turkey say that the Russians place the red *below*, in order to imply that they keep the Turks under.

forts at Odessa or Eupatoria hoisted any flag at all, even during the bombardment of the former city. He said that these places were simply commercial cities, and not allowed to hoist the Imperial colours, which they were not capable of defending.

The Imperial ensign is white, with a blue diagonal cross extending from corner to corner. I imagine that the squadron lying at Nikolaiev had not its full complement of men, and that this was the reason of its flying the national colours instead of the Imperial flag, which was carried by the schooner.

On landing, we found to our astonishment that no post-horses were to be had. We therefore left the carriage and luggage to the care of a soldier, and proceeded in search of the Hôtel de Londres, which we had some difficulty in finding, as it was in the town, at a distance of a mile from the dock-yard. We however enjoyed the walk, which afforded us relief, after sitting in a close carriage so many hours.

The town of Nikolaiev is regularly built, as indeed are most modern cities in Russia; the streets run at right angles to each other, and their width, length, etc., are fixed by decree of the Government, which takes all these matters under its especial care.

While dinner was being prepared, we enjoyed the luxury of a good wash, of which, as may be

supposed, we were much in need, cooped up and splashed as we had been on the journey. The indifference of the people of this country, generally, to the use of water, appeared to me most singular; indeed I have sometimes fancied that they have an objection to it, for, instead of properly washing themselves, I have often seen them satisfied with taking a mouthful of the element, which they would spurt out upon their hands and then rub over their faces. There must of course be many persons in Russia who form exceptions to this uncleanly neglect of the use of water; but I speak only from the observations I was enabled to make during my personal experience in the country: even in the hotels, where they profess to give you the conveniences of a washhandstand, the basins are of the size and shape of a pie-dish, and the ewers like large English milk-jugs.

I called the place an "hotel," at which we put up; this title however it did not assume, but was satisfied with the more modest denomination of "*traktir de Londres*" (which is, I suppose, a corruption of the German "*traktirhaus*"), as it only professed to provide refreshments. It was some time before dinner could be prepared, so that we had time to take a nap, which greatly refreshed us. It was here that my companion purchased the chain I mentioned in a preceding chapter, which we had been recommended to procure for securing our luggage behind the coupé. He was

asked by the people, who had crowded round him, whether he intended to put it upon the prisoner; he was much amused at this supposition, and came and detailed the anecdote to me with much glee and good-humour.

CHAPTER XII,

Leave Nikolaiev.—Post-houses improve as we approach Moscow. — Elisavetgrad. — Prairie land. — Tunuli. — Boundless plains or steppes. — The Yamtchik. — Way-posts. — Rate of travelling in Russia. — Waggons. — Russian words for directing the driver. — Nature of the country.

WE left Nikolaiev about five o'clock, and soon afterwards came to a bridge thrown over a small river that falls into the Boug. Here, to our left, we saw four dismantled steamers, which I recognized as the boats that used to carry the mails between Constantinople and Odessa; they bore the blue flag with a red horn, by which they were always distinguished. The communication between those places being now interrupted by our blockade, the steamers were rendered useless, and removed to this spot inland.

We proceeded through a perfectly flat country, partially cultivated, for seventy versts (about forty-seven miles, counting three versts to two miles), without meeting with anything worth notice. At half-past twelve we reached a station, where we resolved to remain till the morning; so, wrapping our cloaks around us, we lay down to rest as we could. The post-houses along this part of the road

do not afford much accommodation to travellers; but, when within a couple of hundred miles of Moscow, where the traffic is greater, we found the stations built upon a regular plan, similar throughout, having bedrooms and other necessary conveniences, a pretty garden attached to each, and stabling for upwards of a hundred horses.

We continued our way the next morning (the 8th of June) at about half-past seven; the roads were heavy and the weather unfavourable. About five in the afternoon we reached Elisavetgrad.

The general character of the vast tract we traversed was that of prairie-land,—rich and verdant meadows, with here and there pieces of cultivated land along the road. The surface was everywhere flat, not a single elevation occurring to afford us an extensive prospect. Raised slightly above the ground in our carriage, we could look over the level expanse as over the sea, the horizon being unbroken except occasionally by distant grass-covered tumuli, which seemed to render the scene even still more lonely.

These remains of days long past have been conjectured by many to be of antediluvian origin. However this may be, they are remarkable and interesting as monuments fruitlessly raised by a people to commemorate their existence: their names and history are now lost to the world for ever. It would be idle to form conjectures respecting these extraordinary remains; nor will I

stay to detail the various theories I built up, as I contemplated the solitude and desolation to which they are reduced. Once, doubtless, they were surrounded by a teeming population,—possibly the forefathers of the Huns, who afterwards overran Europe, and overwhelmed the South with the warriors from whom the Osmanli sprang.

Wherever these tumuli are opened, they prove to have served as mausoleums; and lately, in one excavated by Mr. Calvert (the English Consul at the Dardanelles) in the plains of Troy, the interior was found to be built up with stones, in a circular form, enclosing a quantity of white dust, some feet in depth, supposed to be the calcined bones of men who had been sacrificed to the manes of the person interred beneath, whose bones were found unconsumed.

The monotony of these boundless plains was not relieved even by the sound of the wheels as they rolled over the unbeaten path, where the grass grew as luxuriantly as elsewhere.

The *yamtchik*, or coachman, seemed to feel the loneliness of the scene, and endeavoured to break the silence by talking to his horses. On inquiring what was the purport of his address to his companions, I was told that his monologue was to the following effect. Assuming that the unpronounceable Russian names of the horses may stand in English for Faith, Hope, and Charity, this would be the burden of his apostrophe:—"Well, Faith,

what's that which Charity has been telling you? Don't believe a word of it. Come, Hope, step out; and don't be led by that faithless Charity, or I shall touch you up, lass;" and so forth, throughout the whole stage, without intermission.

At every verst there is a tall post nearly twenty feet high, on which is inscribed the distance from the last stage, and that to the next; these posts are necessarily high, as in winter the ground is often covered with snow several feet deep; and they then afford direction to the traveller, who can see from one to another as he drives in his sledge—which is esteemed a more agreeable mode of conveyance than wheeled vehicles. We have heard a great deal about the rapidity of travelling in Russia, which, before railways were established, was supposed to surpass every other in Europe. For my own part, I do not recollect having ever gone faster than ten miles an hour, and generally seven; sometimes even, when the roads were bad, still less.

Now and then we saw, to the right or left of the road, herds of cattle and horses, *apparently* without a keeper; and near the farm-yards, flocks of geese and sheep, and droves of enormous pigs, attended by such tiny children, that I was surprised they were not attacked by these huge and voracious animals.

Occasionally we met a few waggons loaded with wine or other provisions for the troops at Odessa,

and drawn by bullocks; at other times we passed them encamped at the side of the road, giving their cattle time to repose and graze around them. Each waggoner carries with him duplicate portions of his vehicle, to guard against accidents.

When traversing a country, a traveller learns certain words by hearing them constantly repeated, let the language of the people be ever so difficult. The word *bakshish**, for instance, resounds in the ears of every one landing at Alexandria. Another word is *bookra* (tomorrow): whatever you want done is deferred till "tomorrow." The words with the Turks are "*Inshalla*" (if it please God), and "*Buccalum*" (we will see).

In Russia, whatever request you make of a Russian, you are answered, "*Sei chas*" (immediately); but which you may infer to mean just the contrary, as the people are most dilatory in their operations; and often, when rendered impatient by waiting, I have repeated the words *sei chas* to express my feelings, or, when asked for anything, I have withheld it, echoing their exclamation, *Sei chas!* They have smiled to find I had discovered their inveterate habit of procrastination, which is

* *Bakshish* means present: and little children that can scarcely walk are taught to shout, "Bakshish!" after the European passer-by, although they may not anticipate compliance with their boisterous requests. I have often fancied that they do it as much to vex and laugh at the Frank, as with the hopes of obtaining charity.

so peculiarly characteristic of Orientals, and which seems also to have pervaded the more northerly inhabitants of Europe.

When driving, there are certain words with which it is very necessary to be acquainted; for, although there is a rule as to which side of a road a carriage should keep,—just the opposite of our own, but which is the same all over the Continent,—Russian drivers do not appear always to conform to it; for I used frequently to hear our coachman call out to the carriages or waggons that we met, “*Na prava !*” (To your right!), “*Na leva !*” (To your left!). If a waggoner chanced to come too near, or appeared to disregard the admonitions of our post-house man (who considered himself of no little importance as the driver of a Government courier), the latter would beat the man with his whip *en passant*, or jump off the coach-box, pursue him, and “lay it into him” most unmercifully. Nor did the men thus treated ever retort, such being the subserviency to authority in Russia. When however we came into Poland, on our return from St. Petersburg, this spirit of submission was not so apparent: I observed that the driver did not give himself such airs to people “below him.” In one instance, my companion, Mr. Sharman, being vexed with a post-boy, boxed his ears, upon which the latter turned upon him very indignantly, and created a disturbance, such as an English lad might be expected to raise on similar treatment. Besides

the above-mentioned Russian words, which I could not help learning, there are three more which are particularly useful to a traveller, and which I will here record :— 1. "*Priama*," go straight on ; 2. "*Stoppi*," go on, proceed ; 3. "*Stoî*," halt, stop ; —these are useful in directing the yamtchik, or whipper of the horses.

Travelling in Russia reminded me much of that in Ireland, where the ragged post-boy always reserves "a gallop for the avenue;" so it was with the Russ, who always contrived to go up at full drive to the post-house, sometimes much to the detriment of the carriage, and giving our bones a terrific shaking over the paved way near the stations.

At Elisavetgrad we dined, and resolved that, on our departure, we would take five horses instead of three, as the roads were so heavy that the wheels sank eight or ten inches in the mud, quite unimpeded by stones. It may seem almost incredible that the water which had fallen during the continuous rains of the last few days still lay on the ground, the surface being so flat as not to allow of its running off. The alluvial deposit on each side of the road was of a black colour, and consisted of a rich mould, which required no manure. It was a remarkable circumstance, that at a certain depth below the surface, the ground was hard ; for the horses, although wading through water, did not seem to sink in it, but only required the moderate

exertion necessary to surmount the impediment of the mud in order to proceed on their way.*

* In some flat plains^o and deltas, particularly those of the rivers Cydnus, Sarrs, and Pyramus, this is not the case; and after rain the roads become impassable except to buffaloes, whose great strength enables them to draw the carts or clumsy waggons of the country.

CHAPTER XIII.

Alexandria.—Farm on the road.—Environs of towns and villages.—Our stock of wine.—Water-tanks on the tops of the houses.—The river Dnieper.—Civility of the chief of the Post-house.—Krementchoug.—The country north of the Dnieper.—Young plantations.—A Russian Courier proceeding to Odessa.—The Telega.

LEAVING Elisavetgrad about six o'clock, we passed through Adjamka, a village on the road, and reached Alexandria about two o'clock after midnight, glad to put up at the post-house, and be relieved from the inconvenient crowding of three persons into a carriage intended only for two. The country we traversed was of the same description as on the previous day,—flat and boundless, and without interest for the traveller. I believe it extends in the same way upwards of a hundred miles, to the Dnieper, and it must, geologically speaking, have been formed by the overflow of that river in ages long before the creation of man.

At the post-house there were sofas, on which we lay for the rest of the night; and the next morning we breakfasted heartily before starting, at eight o'clock. My companion generally took

bread and cheese with his tea ; this I did not like, but, as there was always abundance of eggs, milk, and cream, I did not fare badly. Strange to say, butter was generally a rare article of food : why, I know not, as cream and milk were rich and plentiful. Sometimes not even the black bread of the country was to be had ; but our wants were then supplied by rice cakes, not unlike the Scotch barley cakes. My companion invariably paid for everything we required on the road, before starting ; this exactness on the part of a Government courier savoured more of European order than might have been expected among a people whose habits and ideas partake so much of an Eastern character. In Asia, the smallest man in authority never dreams of paying for anything, and considers that the man who has afforded him shelter and food may think himself lucky to remain unmolested. I believe this was the case also in Russia, until the Government put a stop to such exactions by establishing post-houses and inns, where the traveller may obtain what he requires by paying for it.

About ten o'clock (June 9th) we approached a village on the left bank of the river Dnieper. The environs of most towns and villages in Russia are rather ornamental, being planted with rows of trees ; but unfortunately the roads are worse there than in the open country, doubtless in consequence of their being more used by the inhabitants. In this place we had to wade through water and mud a

distance of a hundred yards at a time, for more than a mile, before we reached the bank of the river, much to the detriment of our luggage, as the water reached above the axle-tree. When we got upon hard ground the postilion began to gallop, as usual; and the jolting on the rough pavement broke five out of the six stone bottles of sherry, much to the vexation of my servant, who had assured me that they were safely packed. There now remained only one bottle out of the dozen given me by our worthy friend Mr. Maberly. It must not be imagined, however, that the wine had been selfishly drunk amongst us: the post-masters and travellers whom we met all partook freely of our store, which had now come to such an untimely end.

At this place I first observed the curious contrivance which the people have for protecting their houses from destruction by fire; I afterwards found it to prevail all over Russia. On the roof of every house is a large tub, kept full of water, with a mop; and a foot-board is fixed all round on the sloping part of the roof, to enable a person to stand near the tub, and pour the water down the chimney or upon any part of the building that has caught fire. The houses are generally of wood, and, not being painted, they soon rot and become like touchwood.

There appeared to be great activity among the inhabitants of this little place, as we had some dif-

ficulty in reaching the ferry in consequence of the crowd. It is here that goods which come down the Dniçper are disembarked, to be forwarded by land to Odessa. This being the point of the river nearest to that city, and on the high road, the inhabitants derive great commercial advantages from the situation of their village, which accounts for the flourishing state in which we found it. There were a great many large barges, gaily painted, and carrying flags of all colours, moored along the shore; altogether it was a lively scene,—particularly so to us, who had been traversing such solitary regions.

We embarked on board a large flat boat, which was rowed up the river against the tide close in shore, before we crossed, in order that the current might not take us too low down the river. We observed that there were several mills built a few yards from the shore, the wheels of which were turned by the stream. The point of the land here must necessarily be slanting, as might be concluded from the strength of the current; but the banks on both sides being rather flat, it was not very observable to the eye. The width of the river here is about a mile.

We had discharged our horses and driver before entering the boat, so that on reaching the opposite bank we had to wait until a relay could be brought; and presently a sorry set of horses made their appearance, who dragged us as well as they could

through the market-place up to the hotel, which we reached about one o'clock, having lost time in embarking and crossing.

We at once ordered dinner; and soon after we had discussed it, an *employé* of the Government, probably a clerk of the post-master, arrived, and informed us that his superior, an old retired Colonel, hearing of my arrival, had prepared a collation, to which he invited me; unfortunately I had already dined, and had to apologize. When we started again, we were surprised at the contrast the nice horses, and the driver and postilion in green uniform, bore to the sorry turn-out in which we had entered the town. We were informed that these had been provided by the Colonel, in honour of the English prisoner; and I regretted that I had not an opportunity of seeing him, to thank the kind old gentleman personally for his civilities.

Krementchoug is a place of some importance, and appeared to be thickly inhabited. The streets are broad, like those of all the principal towns in Russia, and some of the houses are of stone. We left it about two o'clock (June 9th) on our way to Poltova.

The country, on the north bank of the Dnieper, is undulating, and has a pleasing appearance, owing to its unevenness and the variety of trees, such as oaks, firs, poplars, etc.; and here and there are country-houses, the number of which increased as we advanced towards Moscow. Whenever we

reached an eminence we had a view of distant churches and villages, of young plantations and cultivated land, in all directions, which enlivened the prospect. I said "young plantations," because, in this part of the country, I observed that all the fir-trees had the appearance of saplings; they were planted so close to each other that they grew up straight and lank, and forced the oaks to follow them, as they left these naturally wide-spreading trees no room for their branches. The only way in which I could account for the smallness of these trees, was by supposing that they were cut down as soon as they reached a certain size (about ten inches to a foot in diameter),—a supposition in which I was confirmed by seeing immense loads of wood in boats on the rivers. As no coal is consumed, the demand for wood must be great.

At the second station from Krementchoug, as we drove up, we found a Russian courier on the point of starting for Odessa. He delayed his departure to have a chat with my companion, his brother officer Sharman; and I remarked at the time, that it was not unlikely that he was the bearer of the Emperor's order for the exchange of prisoners.

The courier was travelling in a kind of vehicle called a "telega," which is much used in this country. Imagine a cask six or seven feet long, and of proportionate diameter, sawn through lengthways, and one half placed upon four wheels, without

springs. In front is a board for the driver to sit on, and the traveller can lie at full length inside, either upon straw or bedding, covering himself up with his cloak; so that in reality it requires no hood, although it is sometimes furnished with one. These conveyances are changed with the horses, from station to station; they are very light, and afford the great convenience of lying down in them to any one travelling day and night.

I tore a leaf out of my pocket-book, wrote on it a few lines to my messmates at Odessa, and consigned it to the courier. In the note I mentioned the place I had reached, and named the stations at which I thought they would get the best accommodation.

When travelling in Russia I was often asked by the landlord or landlady of the inn to give them a certificate, stating the quality of their accommodations; and in one instance, at Valki, where we dined, I could not refrain from observing in my testimonial, that the landlady had acted up to the real and full meaning of the words "*Sei chas*," as we had had a good dinner, *expeditiously* served.

Taking leave of the courier, we continued our journey, and at twelve o'clock reached a station within sixteen versts of Poltova, where we put up for the night. On our way the driver missed the road, and we had to get out and grope about in the dark till we discovered the track again. This is not an unfrequent occurrence in countries where

the roads are without hedges. This mishap rendered us anxious to avoid the like in future, and after this we travelled more by day and less by night. It also caused a delay, which prevented our reaching Poïtova that evening, as we had anticipated.

CHAPTER XIV.

Poltova.—Style of building.—*Kharkov.*—Carriages made to hold beds.—*Bielgorod Nunnery.*—Drunkenness not prevalent in Russia.—Nearly upset.—Recruits.—Russian Military Colonies.—Pilgrims to Moscow.—Respect of the populace.

THE next morning (10th June) we resumed our journey, and reached Poltova. for breakfast, it being only one stage from where we had slept. We were driven to a very large and new hotel, bearing an unpronounceable name, which of course I cannot remember. In the street where our hotel stood there was, on one side, a row of houses two or three stories high, nicely built, the ground-floor serving for shops; on the other side were shops only, with no rooms above them, and forming a kind of bazaar; they had large panes of glass of an inferior kind. Poltova covers a considerable space of ground, but did not appear to be densely peopled. Its streets are clean and paved, and the houses well built. I observed some ladies walking with parasols in their hands, but without bonnets: they wore instead a light veil hanging from the top of the head, but by no means so graceful as the Spanish mantilla. They had servants following them, so that I could not mistake their rank.

While breakfast was being prepared we strolled into the city, and soon got into the main street, at the top of which is a crescent with an enclosed circular garden, having in the centre a bronze column with an eagle on the top, erected in 1809 in celebration of the centenary of the battle of Poltova. The eagle holds in its claws a wreath of laurel, and faces the Military College, which is in the centre of the crescent. The rest of the buildings are occupied as residences by the military governor and public officers.

We were soon surrounded by a number of Jews, who were anxious to be our cicerones, to conduct us to the tomb of the Swedes who fell on the battlefield of Poltova; but we resisted their importunities, as it would have caused us to lose some time, the place being a mile or two out of the town. We were anxious to proceed on our journey, as we were tired of bad roads; and we knew that after a certain distance we should reach a regular high-road, which the Government was making, and of which we had already seen portions, not yet completed.

We therefore set out at ten o'clock, and travelled with five horses, at the rate of about eight or nine miles an hour, till we reached Valki, between four and five P.M., to dinner.

I could not help noticing to my companion how many new houses were everywhere building in the villages through which we passed, and that others

were crumbling to pieces and required to be renewed, although evidently not of long standing; and I remarked that the builders must be very clumsy in their work. He assured me that, on the contrary, the carpenters were very handy with their tools. With the exception indeed of a hand-saw and gimlet, they use but one tool, which is like a common hatchet, only smaller, with a short light handle, which they wield very dexterously: one end serves for a hammer, and with the other they plane and fashion all their wood.

As already observed, the outside of the houses not being painted (with the exception of the window-frames, which are daubed with gaudy green and red), the sun, which is very powerful in summer, warps the boards, while the continued rains and cold of winter doubtless contribute to their decay. Besides this, the builders have an awkward method of erecting houses, which contributes greatly to their dilapidation. When required to construct a house on the slope of a hill or on slightly uneven ground, instead of levelling the space and forming a foundation, they lay one end of the lower beam, upon which the wall is to stand, on the surface of the ground, and rest the other end on a large stone, so as to keep it horizontal, and then erect the wall upon it. The consequence is, that in course of time the rains wear away the lower side, the stone gives way, and the wall starts and loses its perpendicular; so that in a village you

may see houses nodding to each other at all angles. In cities the houses are of course built with greater care. The plan of joining logs together, one over the other, as practised in Canada, is doubtless a very good one; and, though consuming a great deal of wood, houses are quickly built. The walls are covered with boards or with mud, and in both cases are affected by heat and cold. It was amusing to see, about this time, when the people were preparing for some festival, how busily they were occupied in replastering their houses. The mud in the streets seemed to afford the requisite material; the women and children were wading in the mire barefooted, mixing it, and repairing the damages caused by the rain.

It was here that the promptitude of the landlady elicited from me a certificate of her having used the words "*Sei chas*," and acted up to their meaning. We saw nothing of any consequence at Valki, where we only dined. We next proceeded to Kharkov, where we arrived about one o'clock in the morning, and put up at the station, which was also an hotel, and afforded accommodation to a large number of travellers, who arrived during the night in their carriages, going on to their country-seats. I observed that the carriages were made longer than ours in England, and some of them contained mattresses, so that the ladies could recline in them; a very convenient manner of travelling a great distance, the occupants being enabled to sleep

at ease *en route*, which it is impossible to do in an English vehicle.

There was a great concourse of people in this hotel, as Kharkov is at the junction of several roads, and people seemed to be travelling to their estates. We were accommodated with a sofa to sleep on, this being the general custom in the country; regular beds and bedrooms appear to be provided only in the hotels of Odessa, Moscow, and St. Petersburg, where the concourse of Europeans is greater and these luxuries are required.

We left Kharkov early the next morning (11th June) on our route to Bielgorod, which we reached that evening, having been twelve hours travelling seventy-five versts (fifty miles), the roads being very heavy, and the rain falling all the time. The inn at Bielgorod is kept by a German, who was absent; but his wife entertained us, and I made interest with her to procure some extra covering for my servant, who had an attack of ague. The landlady spoke French, and gave us the pleasure of her company while we were at tea.

The days lengthening as we proceeded northward, it was not dark when we finished our meal, and we could see from the window the buildings in front of the house. I was struck with the deference which the people manifested on passing the gates of the nunnery and church on the opposite side of the street; and although some were not very sober, it being Sunday night, the greater part stopped

to cross themselves before the painting that hung over the door, and *all* ceased their shouting and noisy exclamations while they were passing the sacred edifice.

It is but justice to observe that drunkenness is by no means so prevalent in Russia as it is supposed to be: at least, I came to this conclusion from my personal observation; for during my stay in the country I saw very few instances of inebriety, and even in those it did not lead to any excesses, but only produced a little hilarity.

I rose next morning at five o'clock, and before starting amused myself with looking out of the window. I saw the people, as they went to their work, each contribute their mite to a bag held at the convent-gate by an old nun clothed in black. She seemed to have kept her eye on my movements, determined to give me an opportunity of bestowing alms and increasing her collection. As soon as the carriage came to the door and I was about to enter it, she crossed the street as rapidly as her age would allow her, and thrust her bag forward at the end of a stick; I of course acceded to her request. I saw nothing of Bielgorod except the street running through it, which was broad, and the houses detached, with apparently extensive courtyards behind.

The road from Bielgorod (12th June) was still very heavy, not having yet been laid down by the Government; and in one place the driver, taking us

a short cut over very rough ground, would have upset the carriage, had he not jumped off the box, and with the assistance of my servant restored the equilibrium of the vehicle.

We overtook today a great number of recruits. I could not help observing the paucity of regular troops, although we were constantly passing military colonies built by the side of the road, which however seemed to be deserted by all except the women and children. These colonies appeared to be laid out with order and regularity, the cottages being all of one size and plan, and ranged in a square, with intervening gardens. The male inhabitants might have been in the fields at their labour; but the general absence of troops in this part of the country was striking; indeed, we did not see more soldiers than if we had been travelling in England.

The recruits had small one-horse carts to carry their traps; they were very young, and were escorted by a guard of soldiers in regular uniform. On one occasion I observed several small carts laden with some thirty boys, about ten years old, evidently of Jewish origin, and was informed that they were intended to be brought up as musicians.

We also overtook a great many women of all ages, but some very old, miserably dressed, having straw sandals on their feet, with an extra pair hanging by their sides. Some carried bundles, containing anything they might have for sale in the

large towns to which they were proceeding; some were pilgrims bearing their offerings; but all appeared equally poor; and as we overtook a great many of this description, all proceeding in one direction, until we reached Moscow, I concluded that that was the goal to which they were all pressing. All whom we met or overtook invariably bowed or expressed their respect to the uniforms they saw in the carriage, without knowing who it might be to whom they were thus submissive.

The country here, and all the way to Moscow, had the appearance of being regularly cultivated, as far as I could see, on both sides of the road; and I now observed manure used in the fields, the land not being so rich as that which I had crossed on the other side of the Dnieper. The surface was not hilly, but undulating; and there were a vast number of churches and villages in the distance, interspersed with plantations of trees and fields of wheat and barley.

CHAPTER XV.

Koursk.—A dirty inn.—Our carriage repaired.—The Government high-road to Moscow.—Pilgrims tripping.—Great concourse of people.—The Russian Clergy.—Bishops.—Orel.—Churches in Russia.—Toula.—Cavalry horses.—Turkish prisoners content to remain in Russia.—An English Engineer.—Armourers of Toula.

WE reached Koursk at a late hour of the night, passing through dirty streets, innocent of anything like order or pavement, and put up at one of the filthiest of Russian inns, which are usually none of the cleanest. I recollect that on one occasion, being disgusted with the wretched state in which we found one of these houses of "accommodation," we returned to our carriage to proceed to the next station, much to the disappointment of the host, who expected to make something by us, and who followed us to deprecate our disgust, saying that he had been only a twelvemonth in possession of the place, and had not found time to make the servants clean it. Here however there was no avoiding the fate of furnishing food to the vermin of the place, and we had to make the best we could of our situation, by reposing on the sofas of a room

from which a smoking and drinking party had been ejected to make way for us. We slept however, in spite of all inconveniences and the lacerations of the minute population.

On waking (13th June) we were informed that the carriage needed repairing, in consequence of the damage it had received from the rough road over which we had passed the previous night. It was fortunate that this discovery was made at so convenient a place. By eight o'clock all was ready for our departure, and we proceeded leisurely through the town, over the rough stony streets, but feeling little confidence in the strength of our vehicle.

Koursk is a considerable place; the streets are broad, but the houses irregularly built, and it did not present so modern an appearance as the other towns I had visited. On emerging from the city, we passed through the gate, outside of which are two columns, erected in commemoration of some local event. Here we entered upon the *chaussée*, which is built in one continuous straight line, all the way to Moscow—upwards of four hundred miles. It was marvellous to see, from the top of a hill, one uninterrupted line through the country, as far as the eye could reach. My servant, who was a Maltese, was particularly struck with this boundless extent, comparing it, with the views on his own little confined island, upon which he could scarcely see a few miles ahead of him. He was

sure, he said, his countrymen would not believe him if he described to them what he now saw.

The road is macadamized, and excellent in every respect. It has a ditch on each side; its width however is hardly sufficient, as three carriages could not freely pass at a time. This narrowness of a road in a country where the streets are so broad is remarkable, but may be accounted for by the circumstance that, in so great a length, the width for two carriages to pass freely is, strictly speaking, sufficient; and the expense of forming the road is thus diminished, the materials having to be brought from some distance. On each side are placed large stones, to keep the carriages in their proper limits; outside these stones, there is a width of four feet, on which foot-passengers walk. It cannot however be styled a footpath, because it is inconvenient for the pedestrian, being traversed by small cuttings, to let the water run off the road into the ditch. These cuttings occur at every two or three yards, and are about a foot deep, so that they compel the weary pilgrim to keep his eyes always on the ground, for fear of putting his foot in one of them as he proceeds on his way, which gives him a very pensive appearance. It was amusing to see, as we passed, a string of pilgrims turn round on our overtaking them, their curiosity getting the better of their prudence; and, as they looked back, one or other of them would be sure to stumble, and become a stumbling-block to those

following with their heads turned back ; so that we sometimes saw several sprawling on the ground together.

Although we had now only three horses, we proceeded at a rate of ten or eleven miles an hour. The road was good, and the men determined to show how fast they could go ; when we had to ascend a hill, the coachman would gallop the horses down it at a tremendous speed, gaining an impetus that would carry us over any bridge that might be at the bottom, and half-way up the next acclivity. The hills are too steep, and form one of the defects in this fine road, consequent on its being perfectly straight ; to cut through the hills in order to form a level would have been both expensive and difficult, and the road is not allowed to wind round them. The bridges are chiefly of wood, and where they cross any considerable stream, there are wooden buttresses to protect them from the force of the current ; on each side is a strong rail, and on the sides of the road for some distance are placed posts a yard asunder, to keep the carriages, on such ungovernable occasions as those described above, from falling off into the ditch.

As already observed, the traffic on the road increased as we approached Moscow. On this day we met the diligence from the metropolis,—a huge lumbering vehicle, with five horses, and loaded with passengers. Some conception may be formed of the demand for this mode of conveyance in

Russia, when we state that, at St. Petersburg, on my requiring to take places for a journey to Warsaw, I was informed that every seat was engaged for the next eleven days. An English omnibus company would best meet the demand, by starting vehicles to run every five minutes.

We met many carriages of all kinds; in one was a fat priest, dressed in a violet-coloured gown, buttoned up to the neck, and extending down to the heels. He had a large, broad-brimmed hat, from which his hair hung down upon his shoulders; his beard was long and venerable, and he appeared quite at his ease in his carriage.

From what I could learn, during my residence in Russia, I do not imagine that the clergy have much influence. They are, of course with some exceptions, very ignorant; and it appeared to me that they were more on sufferance, for the position they hold as ministers of grace, than as teachers of the people, by whom they are treated kindly, but that is all.

The priests are divided into many classes, and I observed that they wore various colours,—such as black, violet, grey, and dark blue. But I do not imagine that any distinctions were denoted by the colour of their gowns. They are all allowed to marry; at least, a married man may become a priest, but once having taken orders he cannot take a wife also, and if he should lose his wife he must remain single. A bishop may have been a

married man either before or whilst in orders, but he cannot be raised to wear the mitre unless he is single at the time. Most bishops however devote themselves to celibacy from the beginning of their career, by which course they gain a reputation for sanctity and learning, which may lead to their preferment.

The country we were traversing was richly cultivated, and dotted with farmhouses and villages, forming everywhere pleasing landscapes. The weather was charming, but very warm. About six o'clock in the evening we reached Orel, having travelled 158 versts (106 miles) in ten hours. The high-road runs through this town, which appeared pleasant and clean. We merely staid to dine at the inn attached to the post-house, and then proceeded to the first station beyond Orel to sleep. We were now getting nearer to the metropolis, as was shown by the better appearance of the station, which had been built under the direction of the Government, and was kept clean; we slept, as usual, on sofas, without undressing.

We started the next day (June 14) at half-past five, but discovered before long that our carriage was giving way; we had therefore to stop to have the necessary repairs made while we breakfasted. The villages seemed to increase in number as we proceeded northward. The churches had a very picturesque appearance, and were in some villages very numerous. The country churches were built

chiefly of wood, and whitewashed. They were generally similar in construction, consisting of one large cupola, with four smaller ones in the shape of a cross; and on the top of each cupola was fixed a cross of iron, gilt and ornamented. In many instances the cross was made to stand on a crescent reversed upon the cupola, emblematical of the ascendancy of the Cross over the Crescent. In the villages and country towns the cupolas were painted green, but in the cities they were often gilt, which gives them a brilliant and striking appearance. Not far from Toulâ we overtook a large body of cavalry horses (about five hundred), all of one colour (bay), attended by men who were driving carts, to each of which were attached behind three horses, and between each horse trailed a young fir-tree, about fifteen feet long,—no doubt intended to prevent the horses from kicking at each other. These beautiful creatures formed a great contrast with the clumsy animals which drew the waggons; the latter were probably used to carry provender for the horses.

At Toulâ, which we reached at four o'clock P.M., and where we merely remained to dine before proceeding on our way, we were visited by four Turkish officers, who had been taken prisoners in one of the packet-steamers on the Black Sea, between Trebizond and Constantinople; this was the place appointed for their residence.

The report soon reached them that the first Eng-

lish prisoner of war had arrived, and they naturally thought it their duty to call and pay their respects to their ally in misfortune. One of them spoke a kind of broken English, which he may have picked up when acting as Clerk to the Embassy in England. They had been about three months in this place, and evinced no desire to return to their country, expressing themselves quite satisfied with the *friendly* treatment they experienced at the hands of their *enemies*. Indeed I have since been assured that one of these men, at St. Petersburg, actually burst into tears when his release was announced to him!

I also received a visit from an Englishman who had been forty years a resident in Russia, and who held a situation here as superintendent of a manufactory of arms and general engineering work, of which there were evidences in iron bridges, etc. This gentleman kindly offered me letters of introduction, with which I was already well provided. I believe he is a naturalized Russian subject, and heard that he had children in different departments of the Russian service.

There are many armourers in Toulâ, chiefly occupied in repairing arms; they also assist in making new ones in the Government manufactory; I believe they do not sell any to the people. There were however arms for sale in the shops; but I imagine that they are bought only by persons connected with the Government, who alone are per-

mitted to bear arms. It is not likely that they would be purchased by other people, who would be liable to have them taken away by the Government, which occasionally calls in the arms; I was informed by a lady, whom I met in Russia, that her estate had been rendered defenceless by this measure.

CHAPTER XVI.

Farm-house on the road.—Kvass.—Religious feelings of the people.—First view of Moscow.—Comparison of Moscow and Constantinople.—Hôtel d'Angleterre.—The Kremlin.—University College.—The Head Professor.—The Bazaar.—The railway to St. Petersburg.—One train a day.—Comfortable carriages.—Leave Moscow.

WE left Toula at five o'clock, and nothing occurred of any note till half-past ten, when we found that the tire of one of the large wheels of the carriage had broken; fortunately we were in the vicinity of some farm-houses, where a light was visible, which directed us to the spot, and to our joy we were informed that there was a blacksmith's forge on the premises. This was the last time that any mishap occurred to our carriage before we reached Moscow: I mention these circumstances to convey an impression of the state of travelling in Russia, which must resemble that which existed a century ago in England, such occurrences being at the present day rarely heard of.

As we were to be detained here an hour and a half, while the necessary repairs were executed, my servant turned into the carriage to sleep. Mr.

Sharman went to the forge to superintend the work, while I strolled about smoking a cigar.

I took a peep into the farm-house, and found the farmer and his wife, with three men and three women, seated at a table taking their supper; it was in a wooden bowl, and consisted of pieces of brown bread in *kvass*, a liquor made from rye boiled and allowed to ferment. I had the curiosity to taste it, and found it of a slightly acid flavour and not unpalatable. They did not object to my satisfying my curiosity, nor did they appear surprised at my intrusion. They seemed to be taking their meal in perfect silence. On leaving, I gave the old woman a small piece of silver money, with which she was much pleased.

As I had still some time to wait before starting, I walked up and down in front of the house; and presently the party broke up and came out, distributing themselves to various parts of the building. The light in the hall was still burning, and I could distinctly see one of the men go up to the shrine and perform his devotions. There was no ostentation in the act, because he could not be aware of my seeing him. In every house in Russia there is a painting either of the Saviour or of the Virgin and Child, before which a small lamp is generally suspended from the ceiling by a string and pulley.

The blacksmith completed the repairs by the time promised, and we proceeded on our way, tra-

velling all night, to make up for the loss of time occasioned by our break-down. We were anxious to reach Moscow the next day, so that we delayed as little as possible on our route, which became more and more interesting as we approached the metropolis.

About noon on the 15th of June I obtained my first view of the city of Moscow, from an eminence over which the road passed. It rivals the far-famed view of Constantinople in the number of its towers, spires, and cupolas, some green, some of variegated colours, some gilt or covered with sheets of brass. These, shining in the sun and reflecting a variety of tints, looked like bright spots of fire over the dark edifices, which they seemed to crown with a glory. As we drew near, the view expanded before us, and the beauty of the scene bore a closer inspection, without suffering from the scrutiny of the traveller. This is more than can be said for bright and gorgeous Stamboul, the position of which is so favourable, and the merits of which are enhanced by its political importance.

For many miles before we reached Moscow, the country teemed with population. A continuous line of houses bordered the road for some distance at a time, farm-houses and fields filling up the intervals. I could not resist again making the comparison so disparaging to the rival city, Constan-

tinople, at whose very gates is a desolate and barren desert, but which might be made a fertile and populous country.

On passing the barrier, we delivered our passport to the official on duty, who forwarded it to head-quarters, whilst we proceeded to take up our residence at the Hôtel d'Angleterre; and I here obtained the luxury of a bath and a good shave, of which I was much in want.

Having dined about six o'clock, and been refreshed by a nap, we proceeded to pay a visit to the Governor of Moscow, whom however we did not see. We drove in a droshky through the gates of the Kremlin, which, I need not tell my reader, is a fortress in which are to be found palaces, churches, nunneries, and buildings of various kinds, in grand confusion. The view of the city and surrounding country from one of its terraces is magnificent and imposing; but the variety of interesting objects that attracted my notice was too great, and my time for surveying them too short, to admit of my doing justice to this far-famed structure.

At the office, where we saw only some clerks seated at their desks, we found our passport ready and *visé*; and, pocketing this, we quitted the Kremlin, and presented ourselves at the University College, which was not far from our hotel. I was anxious to see the Director or President of

this establishment, as the Emperor had ordered that the four youngest midshipmen* of the Tiger should be placed under his direction. This gentleman received us very cordially, and showed us the apartments that had already been prepared for the reception of my young friends. The rooms were remarkably clean and airy, and the beds made up ready to receive them. The amiable Professor, who spoke French with fluency, assured me that he had received the Emperor's orders to be particularly careful of the young men, and that he would carry out his Imperial Majesty's orders to the letter. I have no doubt he will keep his word.

Having fulfilled this duty, we proceeded to the Bazaar to make a few purchases. Although I walked a quarter of a mile in this extensive place, I do not believe I went half over it. It is in the form of an arcade, with rows of shops on each side of the walk, all protected from the inclemency of the weather. We then returned to our hotel for the night, where I was very comfortable; and, for the first time since leaving the Tiger, enjoyed the luxury of sleeping in a bed undressed.

Moscow being so vast a city, the inhabitants had little opportunity of hearing of my arrival, so that no great sensation was created by the "first English prisoner in Moscow." A few persons, hearing from the servants of my being in the hotel, collected at the door to see me; but, find-

ing that their curiosity could not be satisfied, as they were not admitted within the court-yard, they soon dispersed.

On the next morning (16th June) a few people assembled to see us start; which we did in two droshkies, one for ourselves, and one for the luggage and servant. As we traversed the city to the railway-station, the strangeness of my uniform, here as elsewhere in Russia, attracted attention. A gold-lace naval cap had perhaps not been seen before in this inland metropolis.

At the station, the officials being informed who I was, whispered it to their friends; and, during an hour and a half that we had to wait for the starting of the train, several persons passed and re-passed before me, under pretence of business, to look at me; some who knew English came and spoke to me, and all behaved with urbanity. They said they were sure I should be satisfied with my treatment at St. Petersburg, and that in all probability, on being presented to the Emperor, his Majesty would grant me my liberty; but I scarcely ventured to anticipate such a happy result. Indeed, I all along imagined that after the Emperor had seen and cross-questioned me, I should be sent to join my messmates at Riasan until the conclusion of the war: the sequel will show that I did not correctly estimate the generosity of his Imperial Majesty.

The railway terminus at Moscow is magnificent; the hall is spacious, and adapted to contain a vast number of people, and the waiting-rooms are exceedingly clean and neat; the furniture appeared quite new, although it had been in use three years. As yet, only one train leaves Moscow for St. Petersburg per day, so that there is no chance of collision on the road. All the arrangements appear to be perfect, and order is maintained by a very fine body of men, the gendarmes, who mount guard there daily. The *employés* have most of them military titles, and the director is an old general officer; the latter was remarkably attentive and kind to me, and, during the quarter of an hour that we had to wait after taking our seats in the carriage, he came repeatedly to see if I had all I required.

The carriage allotted for my special use was about ten feet square; it was furnished with two sofas and chairs, a small card-table, and two side-tables. On the sofas I could have reclined at full length, a convenience very desirable, and generally denied us on English railways; the sofas and chairs had air-cushions, and were very comfortable. I looked into several first and second class carriages, and they all appeared nicely fitted up, although not like the one assigned to me: the second class carriages had seats and cushions superior to those of the first class on English rail-

ways, and afforded plenty of room to each individual, allowing of his sitting without cramping his knees upon those of the person opposite to him. We left Moscow at eleven o'clock precisely,—Mr. Sharman, my servant, and myself occupying this little room to ourselves. Our luggage was stowed away in another carriage.

CHAPTER XVII.

Fever on the road.—Tver.—Numerous churches.—An acquaintance.—Refreshment-rooms at the Stations.—Meet three English residents in St. Petersburg, proceeding to Moscow.—Mr. Sharman's delicacy of proceeding towards me.—Time allowed at the Stations.—Regularity in the arrival of trains.—Deliberate movements.

THE excitement of the journey had tended to keep off a fever which I had felt about me for some time, but which now attacked me with some violence. As I had not anticipated such a circumstance, I had packed up all my extra clothing with my luggage, so that I suffered from cold in the first paroxysms, until the guard lent me a thick fur coat. The people at the station where we stopped, and the passengers, did not seem to know what ague was; for they appeared much alarmed, and crowded round me, expressing their astonishment at my shaking fit. Even Mr. Sharman attached more importance to my indisposition than it deserved, and every one seemed anxious to contribute to my relief, offering me tea, or any thing else I might wish to take.

The fever did not cease till eleven o'clock that

night, during all which time I lay in that uneasy state between waking and sleeping, of the discomfort of which no one who has not experienced it can form an idea. It will not therefore be expected that I should give the reader any information respecting this part of my route; I only recollect that in one place at which we stopped (probably at Tver), I looked out of the windows, and, at a little distance from the railway, I could see and count twenty-two churches in a large town situated on a low plain.

I believe the railway between Moscow and St. Petersburg runs generally through a level country, in many places very swampy; and I observed that on each side of the road, for a considerable distance, there was a footway constructed of planks, through extensive marshes.

On the railway, wood, and not coal, is used for the engines; and as they might sometimes be short of wood between the stations, I observed that there were provisions of this fuel in little houses on the way, where there was a guard, who presented himself as the train passed, and bore a flag, to notify that all was right ahead. The engines on this line are provided by an American Company, which has a contract with the Government. This I learned from an Englishman, whom I had previously seen at Woolwich, and who recognized me and came to speak to me at one of the stations, where he was employed as one of the working engineers; he had

been tempted to enter the Russian service with the hope of bettering his condition, but he did not seem quite satisfied with the change.

The up and down trains run on different sides of the stations, so that one refreshment-room serves for both. In one of these, at a late hour at night, I was sitting and taking some soup, when I felt the weight of a great brawny hand fall upon my back, accompanied by a voice that could only have belonged to such a leg-of-mutton fist, exclaiming, "Well, countryman, how are you?" I turned round, and saw three large, powerful men standing behind me. They informed me, in as brief a way as they could, that they had been some years in the Russian service as engineers, and, in consequence of the war, had given in their resignation; this had at first been accepted by the Government, which, however, on second thoughts, had deemed it better that they should be detained; and they were now under the charge of a gendarme, who was conducting them to Moscow, the place allotted for their residence, until further orders.

They requested me to call on their families and friends in St. Petersburg, and inform them of their safety. In case this work should fall into the hands of any of them, I take this opportunity of letting them know that I was not able to keep my promise, being prohibited, at St. Petersburg, from communicating with the English residents there; but I did all I could to serve them, and requested

the British Vice-Consul (whom I saw before this prohibition on the part of the Russian Government) to see their friends for me. Although these men were apparently inconvenienced by their detention, they parted from me with the following assuring expression, which needs no comment from me:—"Never mind, old chap! come what may, they will be sure to treat you like a gentleman."

I observed that, whenever we stopped at a station, of which there are about twenty in this distance of four hundred miles, the guard who accompanied us walked up and down before my carriage. Now, although I had made no remark upon it, Mr. Sharman, who also perceived him, ordered him off, and was anxious that I should not fancy the man was there as any restraint upon me, and delicately expressed himself to this effect.

I was pleased to perceive that there was no unnecessary hurry in the railway movements, such as those which annoy the English traveller; plenty of time was allowed at every station to the passengers to take their meals, and in each there was all that could be required in the way of refreshments.

The time allowed for the train to pass from one station to another, is carefully fixed for the driver, who dare not arrive a minute sooner or later, so that in some cases we had to go very slowly in order not to arrive before the time. This however is not unpleasant, as people on the Continent do not give

way to that nervous hurry which fidgets us and shortens our lives. Who in England has time to look around him? Rich and poor seem to be urged along by an impetus which prevents their thinking of anything except of their next appointment; and as soon as that is kept, their thoughts fly to the next.

CHAPTER XVIII.

Arrival at St. Petersburg.—General Sitinin.—Hôtel Démouth.—Colonel Montandre.—The Minister of War.—English uniform.—The War Office.—Ante-room of the Minister.—Interview with Prince Dolgorouki.—Remain at the hotel.—Return of the *ague*.—The Emperor's orders respecting me.

WE breakfasted about six o'clock, and I felt relieved by the few hours' sleep that I had had during the night. Punctually at nine we reached St. Petersburg; the terminus is like that at Moscow. Here we left the servant with our portmanteaus, to be sent for later in the day, and proceeded to the office of the "Général de Service," to report my arrival. This office forms part of a series of handsome buildings, in a crescent, opposite the Winter Palace. We found that General Sitinin, who, I believe, is the Commander-in-Chief of the troops at St. Petersburg, was absent, and we had to await his return. In the meanwhile I had the pleasure of forming the acquaintance of the aides-de-camp of the General and of Colonel Montandre, who were very polite to me.

The simplicity of my dress, which was a plain round jacket, attracted their notice, and they wished to know if this was my uniform, and whether I had

no other. Russian officers never appear but *en grande tenue*, and I have sometimes fancied that they must sleep in their uniforms. I stated that this was the dress worn on board, as more convenient for active service, but that we were provided with a dress of a more official character for particular occasions. The conversation ran on general topics, as to the means of travelling in Russia, etc., until the Governor's return. This gentleman expressed a hope that I had had a pleasant journey, and that I had found everything satisfactory; and then directed Mr. Sharman to return to the station, to convey my servant and luggage to the Hôtel Démouth. Colonel Montandre, under whose care I was placed by the General, undertook to accompany me to my temporary quarters, where I was to wait until the arrival in St. Petersburg of the Prince Dolgorouki, Minister of War, who would decide as to my future movements.

We drove in a carriage to the hotel, where I was shown to a bedroom, in which I shaved and dressed, while the Colonel entered into arrangements with the host. In the course of the morning, one of the officers of police visited me, and finding that the room was small and inconvenient, having no bed for the servant, he mentioned the circumstance to the proper authorities; and in the afternoon I was taken over the hotel, and given my choice of the apartments it contained. I selected a suite of rooms, consisting of a sitting-

room, an ante-room, and two bedrooms: the whole could be separated from the rest of the establishment by closing a door in the corridor.

About two o'clock in the afternoon, I received an intimation that the Minister of War had returned from Peterhof, and was desirous of seeing me. My servant had brought away a pair of old epaulettes, which it is customary to have at hand in case of being suddenly called upon duty; and with these, and an old undress coat (the only one recovered from the wreck), I was enabled to make an appearance in some degree consonant with Russian etiquette. The Colonel came to take me, and was delighted to see me thus arrayed. Although my epaulettes were old, and had seen much service, they were considered very handsome, as in Russia only general officers wear epaulettes of that size, the rest wearing little things made of silver wire; and during my stay I received visits from many of the officers, who came expressly to see my uniform, such as it was, and made me put it on.

The War Office is situated nearly opposite the Admiralty, in the Square in which stands the statue of Peter the Great. The building is of respectable appearance, without pretensions to any particular architectural beauty: it has two stone lions *couchant* at the foot of the steps leading to the entrance, and, like most of the public buildings, has written over it the name of the office which is located in it.

As the Minister was engaged when we arrived, I had to wait his leisure, and thus had an opportunity of looking round me. In the hall, where I was accommodated with a seat, and which was the ante-room to the Minister's apartment, I saw some thirty clerks seated at separate tables in two rows, with their backs to the wall. They were dressed in blue uniform, with red cuffs and collars, coats buttoned up to the neck, and swords by their sides, with cocked hats within reach. A chief clerk, whose table was nearest the door that communicated with the General's room, occasionally brought out papers to be copied by these gentlemen, who maintained a profound silence, except a few who could venture to break through the rules, and who crowded round Mr. Sharman to inquire into the particulars of my story.

The aides-de-camp of the General, gentlemen who were not much "*affaires*," availed themselves of the occasion to converse with me directly, as they all spoke French, and some of them English. I remarked two old soldiers, covered with decorations, standing at the door of the General's room as porters or messengers. Of these I had seen several at the entrance-hall; and if one is to judge of their merit by the number of the medals they wore, they must have seen much service, and have distinguished themselves; but, in fact, all persons in the service of the Russian Government appeared to me to be decorated. After an interval

of half an hour, General Sitinin came out of the Minister's room and beckoned me to approach. Colonel Montandre and Mr. Sharman remained in the hall, in conversation with the aides-de-camp, until my return. I followed the General into an inner room, where he introduced me to the Prince Dolgorouki, and retired. The Prince is a man of about forty-five, above the average height, rather stout, with a pleasing expression of countenance, and amiability of manner. He came forward, and, taking me by the hand, addressed me as follows, still retaining my hand:—

“Monsieur le Lieutenant, the chances of war have thrown you into a position which places us now in the relation of friends, and I trust that in our future intercourse we shall esteem each other as loyal gentlemen. His Majesty has directed that you should be located in an hotel, and every attention paid to your comfort. You will make known to the Colonel any request that you may have to make. I must inform you that your parole will not exempt you from the attendance of an officer, such being the law; but everything shall be done to render this as little irksome to you as possible. The Emperor is now at Peterhof, and I shall have the honour of communicating to you his Majesty's pleasure when he will be at leisure to see you; and until I can learn his wishes, I must request you not to leave your present abode.”

We then entered into conversation on general

topics, and I took the opportunity expressing my satisfaction at the unvarying kindness I had received, and the accommodations afforded me at the hotel. I particularly called to his Excellency's notice the polite and considerate bearing of Mr. Sharman; upon which he replied, "Oui, oui, c'est un brave garçon."

I hope Mr. Sharman has received some advancement as a reward for his unremitting attention and delicate conduct toward me. His frank, honest, and gentlemanly demeanour was extremely pleasing. He never sought to lead me into any conversation that might place me in a false position; indeed, it was only on *my* alluding to the Tiger during our journey, that he ever spoke of the cause that had led to our companionship. Although desirous of knowing the details of an affair on which he was so much questioned,—on which he would be expected to be well informed,—he refrained from putting any questions that might give me the slightest pain. I appreciated his kind forbearance. I afterwards found that he was appointed to be my "aide-de-camp" during the rest of my stay in Russia. I say "aide-de-camp," for his attendance upon me was certainly more in the quality of friend and companion, than in that of keeper or *surveillant*. I was duly dismissed by the Prince, who informed me that I should probably hear from him on the following day.

I returned to the Hôtel Démouth, situated in

the Rue des Écuries, which derives its name from the Imperial Stables being at one end of it. It is a fine, broad street, wide enough for five or six carriages to drive abreast, and remarkably clean, although there is a regular stand of conveyances for hire. These latter are not placed in the centre of the street, as in England; but there is a trough near the pavement, at which the horses stand, harnessed to the carriages, with their heads toward the houses. The streets are so broad, that the vehicles, when thus placed, offer no obstruction to the traffic in the centre.

Mr. Sharman informed me that, as we were prohibited from walking out, he should have to be a close prisoner with me that evening, much to his disappointment, as he had anticipated the pleasure of visiting his wife and family on his return. We passed the evening as agreeably as we could, looking out on the street, and criticizing the passers-by. My appearance at the window was always a signal for an assemblage of the curious; and in order that we should be on equal terms, I provided myself with an opera-glass, which Mr. Sharman obtained for me from his wife, who came to see him the next day; with this I could scrutinize those who were looking at me. Although I cannot speak much in favour of the beauty of the women I saw, my curiosity was as much gratified as theirs. I had been informed that smoking was not allowed in the streets; so, perhaps to make up for our de-

tention at home, we smoked a few cigars extra that evening.

The following day (June 18th) was Sunday, but I was unable to rise from my bed, in consequence of a return of my ague. Great was the consternation of the landlord on witnessing the paroxysms of the fever; he fancied I must be labouring under an attack of cholera, and was astonished at the number of blankets required to keep me warm.

It was fortunate that some one had been appointed by the Government to look after me; otherwise I scarcely know what would have become of me, in a place where every one spoke only German or Russian. The landlord, the servants of the hotel, the very doctor who was called to attend me, were all Germans; and my sole medium of communication was through Mr. Sharman. I purchased some German elementary books, under the impression that I should remain in Russia long enough to acquire a language so much in use among the inhabitants of St. Petersburg, believing I could learn it much sooner than Russian.

During my illness that day I was visited by Colonel Montandre, who had received the Emperor's orders respecting the degree of liberty I was to enjoy; but seeing I was not in a state to be spoken with, he did not communicate the contents of the document till the following day, when, after breakfast, he called and read it to me; it was to the following effect:—

1st. That I was at liberty to go anywhere I pleased about the city, but was always to be accompanied by an officer. •

2nd. That I was not to communicate with any English subjects, except the Rev. Dr. Law, the Chaplain to the Embassy at St. Petersburg.

3rd. I was allowed to have any books or papers I chose to ask for, but all letters that I wrote or received were to pass through the office of the Commander-in-Chief.

To crown their liberality, the Colonel produced a portfolio, with pen, ink, and paper, which he placed on the table, recommending me to make notes of my residence in Russia. He did not omit to give me two sticks of sealing-wax, although my letters were to be sent open.

I did not avail myself of my permission to write to my friends until I had had an interview with the Emperor; and my letter, which was forwarded to the General four days previous to my departure from St. Petersburg, reached my family as many days after my arrival in London, through the Danish Minister. In this letter I had avoided any express mention of my release, as I could not calculate the time I should take to get home, and was afraid of disappointing my friends, by holding out hopes that might not be realized; this omission no doubt caused General Sitinin to ask me, a day or two afterwards, whether I still wished the letter to be forwarded.

Some of the officers at St. Petersburg, whom I saw, were much amused at the contents of a letter written at that time by a Turkish prisoner to one of his friends at Constantinople, in which he stated that the only remarkable thing he had seen since his arrival in Russia, was a painting in a picture-gallery of some cocks and hens!

CHAPTER XIX.

Mr. Miller, the British Vice-Consul.—The Nevskoi-Prospekt.—Toleration in Russia.—The Kazan Church.—The Admiralty.—Droshkies.—The Rev. Dr. Law.—The Academy of Arts.—The Gardens at St. Petersburg.—Military bands.—The twilight.—Statue of Peter the Great.—The Senate House.—The Russian Synod.—Canals.—The Winter Palace and the Hermitage.

Soon after the Colonel's departure I received a visit from Mr. Miller, the British Vice-Consul, whom I requested to call on the families of the English engineers for me; and informed him of the Emperor's command that I should not communicate with him or any of the English residents at St. Petersburg, requesting he would make this known to my countrymen, to relieve me from any imputation of wishing to avoid their society.

Accompanied by Mr. Sharman, I drove out about three o'clock in a droshky, to see the sights of the city. We traversed some of the principal streets, and crossed the Neva to the public gardens, where a military band usually plays in the evening. The longest and finest street in St. Petersburg is called Nevskoi-Prospekt. It is upwards of three miles in length, and broader than any

street in London. The shops are very fine, and ornamented with paintings on boards, representing articles for sale within; they are not however equal in splendour to the shops in Regent-street, being quite in a different style, not presenting such large glass fronts. But in one respect this street will vie with any in Europe—for the number of *modistes*; ladies visiting St. Petersburg need apprehend no difficulty in procuring any article they may require, and that too of the last Paris fashion.

There are many churches, of various denominations, in St. Petersburg, where every religion is tolerated, although no change is permitted except into the bosom of the Church of the State. For instance, a Protestant would not be allowed to turn Catholic, or a Catholic Protestant; but either may recant his “errors,” and become Greek. One of the Greek churches which I visited, called the Church of Kazan, is very beautiful. It is built in the form of a cross; in front is a crescent-shaped colonnade, consisting of two double rows of Corinthian columns, forming a covered way to the central entrance, where the columns are more numerous, perhaps indeed a little too crowded for correct taste. In front of the crescent, in an open space, there are statues, on pedestals, of Blücher and Kutusoff. This church is generally used for the military. The interior is of noble proportions; the columns are of polished granite, and have richly-endowed shrines between them; on the co-

lums are suspended the keys of various towns taken in former wars from the Turks, and banners captured from various enemies. The flag of the Tiger, which, on our Gracious Queen's birthday, was paraded in the streets of St. Petersburg with the Turkish flag, was however not among these trophies; it was doubtless too choice a relic to be thus disposed of. The interior of the Kazan Church, built after the model of St. Peter's at Rome, surpasses in grandeur any idea that can be formed of it from a general description; it is rich with silver, bronze, marble, jasper, and granite.

At one end of the Nevskoi-Prospekt is the Admiralty, an edifice of considerable dimensions; and towering far above it is a singular sharp spire, supported on a large number of columns, visible to advantage at the opposite extremity of this long street.

The Nevskoi-Prospekt has the disadvantage of being paved chiefly with wood, which does not withstand the climate, so that it has to be constantly renewed; a part is paved with rough stones, which cause an unpleasant jerking in the light droshkies. These vehicles are little in accordance with the general solidity of the structures in St. Petersburg; they are slight-made and uncomfortable, afford no protection from the weather, and have hardly room for two persons behind the coachman; they are very narrow, and the seat for the passengers is the same as that occupied by the

driver. Fancy a bench two feet wide, by five or six feet long; at one end sits the yamtchik, with his back perhaps to a lady, who sits close to him on the bench, facing his right; and beyond her, in close contact, a gentleman with his face to the left, each having a small board to put their feet on, and prevent their falling off. There are, however, covered and open carriages for hire, drawn by two horses, and kept very clean. I do not know what is paid for these; but I believe that for the one-horse droshky, twenty-five kopcks (about a franc) is the charge per hour. The drivers sometimes try to impose on a traveller, as our cabmen do, and refuse to take a fare they think not likely to be remunerative; but there is this difference, that if brought before a magistrate, they get the knout for an offence which would bring on Cabby only the punishment of a small fine.

On our return from our drive, having dined, I availed myself of my permission to visit the Rev. Dr. Law, the Chaplain of the Embassy, who has been a resident in Russia some thirty-four years. Great was his astonishment and that of his worthy lady at my unexpected visit; but on learning who I was, they treated me in the most cordial manner; and during the rest of my stay at St. Petersburg, they evinced the kindest interest in me, showed me every attention, and afforded me a general welcome and hospitality, of which I shall ever be mindful. I deem it a great advantage to have been allowed

by the Government to visit them, and profit by the reverend gentleman's admonition and experience.

Dr. Law showed me the chapel, which is on the upper floor of the house he inhabits; it will hold a thousand persons; the number of the Doctor's congregation is about six hundred. He showed Mr. Sharman the seat that he would appropriate to my use when attending Divine service, so as not to infringe on the Imperial command that I should not communicate with any English subject. Mr. Sharman crossed himself on entering this place of worship, just as if it had been his own church. I had already observed, and it was confirmed to me by those who have resided long in the country, that the Russians are naturally a religious people: they are disposed to reverence everything that is sacred, and appear to feel a superstitious awe towards whatever is respected by others.

After canvassing the merits of various positions, it was agreed that it would be best for me to sit in the pew of the Doctor's family, with whom alone I was allowed to communicate; I should thus run no risk of coming in contact with my interdicted countrymen. We then descended to Dr. Law's apartments, and Mr. Sharman considerately remained in another room while we took tea, which was also sent to him. About ten o'clock we returned to our hotel.

The next morning (June 20th) we visited the Academy of Arts, on the opposite side of the

river; it contains a kind of museum and library, besides a large gallery of paintings^g by modern artists. As it was extremely warm out of doors, we passed the greater portion of the day in this gallery. Some of the paintings, by Russian artists, appeared to me to possess great merit; I was particularly struck with those executed by a lady for the new Cathedral of St. Isaac.

In the evening we drove to the gardens I have already mentioned, to hear the band. These gardens are really pretty, being laid out with great taste, and, strange to say, have trees growing in them with great luxuriance. They are much frequented by gay and fashionable people. There is a carriage-drive outside, which enables the rich gentry to come within hearing of the music, without leaving their vehicles. On the whole, this place of amusement affords as good an opportunity for show and dress, horses and carriages, as Kensington Gardens; but at this time of the year the higher classes were at their country-seats.

The length of the twilight at St. Petersburg was such, that my servant, who had sat up the first and second night in expectation of its getting dark, complained that he did not know when to go to bed. At last he decided on closing the shutters, and retiring to rest at six o'clock, without waiting for the darkness. I have sometimes been able to read in bed till two or three o'clock in the morning, without lighting a candle.

The next day (June 21st), Mr. Sharman having obtained leave to visit his wife and family in the day-time, an officer came to relieve him till the evening; he was allowed to leave me a few hours every day. As some of the officers who supplied his place could not speak French, I remained much at home, it being useless to go out in company with persons from whom I could obtain no information.

In the evening I drove to dine with Dr. Law, whose residence is near the river, on the Quay, and has an agreeable prospect. The Neva is a pretty, clean-looking river, and is animated with shipping, boats, and steamers, which ply from the stairs on the opposite side, to Peterhof and Cronstadt.

On our way we passed under an archway, in front of the Winter Palace, and then by the Admiralty, crossing the square in which stands the well-known statue of Peter the Great. He is represented on a fiery charger, wild as the Muscovite nobility whom he succeeded in taming; he is seated on a bear-skin, indicating the state of barbarism in which he found his people; the horse is in the act of ascending a hill, the summit of which he is just attaining. The hill consists of an immense piece of granite, said to weigh at least 1500 tons. It was discovered by Falconet, the artist who executed this *chef-d'œuvre*, half-buried in the midst of a morass. Catherine II. ordered the marsh to be drained, and a road cut through a forest, in

order to bring this stupendous rock to St. Petersburg, to serve as a pedestal for the statue, emblematic of the difficulties surmounted by the civilizer of the North. It is supposed to surpass in bulk any of the boasted monuments of Roman grandeur. There is an inscription on the mass of granite, on one side in Latin, and on the other in Russian.

Facing the Admiralty, on the opposite side of the Square, is the Senate House, and the edifice in which are held the meetings of the Synod; at the head of the latter sits a *General* officer, to direct the decisions of the holy men, on the part of the Emperor, who is the head of his Church.

The canals form a striking feature in this city; they have an animated appearance, and are very useful, as they communicate with the streets; so that the latter remain free for traffic, while rubbish is removed, and furniture, merchandise, and firewood conveyed, by these useful arteries of the metropolis. Near the quays may be seen fish-boats, not unlike our bathing machines; in them the fish are kept alive, and taken out only when required; sometimes a line is passed through the gills of the larger kinds, and they are let loose, to be hauled in when a purchaser presents himself.

I did not visit either the Hermitage or the Winter Palace; the former is a small house, consisting of only three rooms, which Peter the Great occupied whilst the fortress was building, and

which is on the north side of the river. Peter was founding a city, and, regardless where he resided, a hovel answered the purpose of a more regal mansion.

In the evening Mr. Sharman came to Dr. Law's residence, to relieve his brother officer, and returned home with me, where we passed an hour or two conversing before we retired to our apartment, which contained two beds, one of them occupied by him.

CHAPTER XX.

The Fever and Ague again.—A Russian physician.—Panaceas.—The Emperor commands me to proceed to Peterhof.—Leave St. Petersburg by Steamer.—Batteries.—The Russian Fleet at Cronstadt.—Second interview with Prince Dolgorouki.—Gardens at Peterhof.—Residence of the Cesarovitch.—Private residence of the Emperor.

ON the following day (June 22nd) I was laid up with the ague, and instead of the German doctor who had previously attended me, I received a visit from a Russian physician, who prescribed for me, Sharman being our interpreter. I was well physicked, but to little purpose. Many were the extraordinary infallible remedies recommended to me by people who visited me during my stay in this capital. One gentleman said that the fever would be certainly driven away by my eating a Seville orange, rind and all, cut in two and well peppered; but unfortunately there were no Seville oranges to be had, even if I had been disposed to put his panacea to the proof. Another recommended me to put a live crab in a bottle of brandy, and, after keeping it a week, to drink a glass of the brandy before the attack came on, and repeat the dose

every few hours. A third, still more absurd, seriously recommended a poultice of pounded garlic and some other herbs, to be applied to the fourth finger of the left hand; it was to be bound on with a cabbage-leaf, and would cause so much pain as to counteract the effects of the fever! A fourth was, to take three raw eggs every morning and evening: this recommendation I followed on my journey home, and must say that I was free from the fever for the time, though I cannot exactly attribute it to the means adopted.

On the 23rd I received a visit from Colonel Montandre, who communicated to us the desire of the Emperor that we should proceed at once to Peterhof, to await his Majesty's pleasure to see me. Arrangements had been made to convey us to the Palace, and we started at twelve o'clock in a steamer from the quay I have already mentioned, opposite Dr. Law's residence; about two we reached the pier at Peterhof. The steamer was crowded with ladies and gentlemen, who were on a pleasure-trip down the river. Although St. Petersburg is a place of imposing appearance to a person in the city, it has little beauty when viewed from the water; on the contrary, it appears quite insignificant to any one on board a vessel entering the river: being built on low ground, at first sight nothing is visible but tall factory chimneys and the domes of some of the churches.

As we descended the river, I observed several

batteries at its mouth, mounting a dozen guns each, but apparently not very formidable. Buoys were placed to point out the deepest water; and I feel convinced that, from the observations I was enabled to make, I could undertake to direct a vessel up the stream without touching ground.

At Peterhof I could see the Russian fleet anchored under Cronstadt, at a distance of ten or twelve miles,—too far to enable me to form any idea of the number of vessels.

On landing, one of the Imperial carriages was in waiting to convey us to the apartments which I was to occupy; these were under the same roof with, and close to, the chambers of the Minister of War, upon whom we waited to announce our arrival.

The Prince kindly inquired after my health, and asked whether I came provided to remain several days here. I replied that, being under the impression that I was to wait on his Imperial Majesty at once, I had not brought my portmanteau with me, anticipating to have to return to my lodgings that evening. An express messenger was immediately despatched, with a letter from me to my servant, desiring him to forward what I might require for a residence of a few days.

On returning to our appointed lodgings dinner was served, and, as usual, I fared extremely well, without having the trouble of ordering it; the *maître d'hôtel* furnishing us with fish, fowl, and

meat, according to the French system of cookery. In the evening we strolled in the gardens of the Palace, which are open to the public, and are visited by parties from St. Petersburg, who come here to pass the day, but whose hilarity is not at all diminished by being under the immediate eye of the Emperor and the Court.

As an instance of the close contact into which the people are sometimes brought with the Imperial Family and the Court, who are by no means hedged in by restrictive formalities, I may state that it came to my knowledge, that, on one occasion, a lady having taken possession of a kiosk, where she intended to dine with her children, the servants of the Palace informed her that the Empress had determined on occupying the place for that day, and politely requested her to move to another part of the ground.

The Palace at Peterhof is the summer residence of the Cesarovitch, the Grand Duke Alexander. The Emperor leads quite a domestic life at a beautiful private residence called Alexandria, a short distance from Peterhof.

There were two bands playing alternately in the extensive gardens at the back of the Palace; and as the music is good, this formed a great source of attraction to the gentry and the people, who, with the number of officers in uniform, contributed to give the grounds a very gay appearance. The weather at this time of the year was mild, and the

atmosphere particularly clear ; so that the people lingered till a late hour, enjoying the music, which was terminated by a Russian hymn, upon which all stood up and uncovered.

CHAPTER XXI.

Proceed to Strelna.—Alexandria.—The Ducal drawing-room.—
The Grand Duchess Alexandra Josefowna.—Her affability.—
Her Ladies-in-Waiting.—Arrival of the Grand Duke Constantine.—His conversation.—His acquaintance with naval affairs.

THE next day (June 24th) I was again attacked by the ague, which confined me to my room; and was visited by another doctor, a German, who spoke French. As I had been informed that I should have to wait on the Grand Duke Constantine at Strelna, a little beyond Alexandria, I stipulated with my Æsculapius that he should give me no medicines which might disable me from attending the summons of his Imperial Highness. He accordingly gave me only a simple draught, to be taken every hour till seven o'clock; at that time I got up, more dead than alive.

Carriages belonging to the Government, stand ready horsed for the use of the Ministers, as well as other vehicles, to convey couriers to all parts of the empire. It is remarkable that horse-riding, either for pleasure or on business, is extremely rare—everybody seems to prefer driving: perhaps the Russians consider this a step in civilization beyond

their southern neighbours, whose want of roads compels them still to have recourse to riding on horses' or mules' backs to get over the ground.

We entered one of the Imperial two-horse carriages, and in half an hour reached Strelna, the residence of the Grand Duke Constantine, the second son of the Emperor. We passed Alexandria on the left: it is a retired spot, and we could not see through the trees that surrounded this secluded domain, where, as already observed, the Emperor enjoys the privacy of domestic life.

Both Alexandria and Strelna enjoy a view of the entrance to the river, which is about half a mile distant, and where there is a pier built for the landing of his Imperial Highness the Grand Duke, whose duties often call him to the fleet. From the windows of these palaces Cronstadt may be seen on the left, with its monster fortifications; the front is enlivened by vessels passing and re-passing over the tranquil waters of the bay; and to the right, in the distance, stand the spires of the capital.

I was shown into a drawing-room, to await the arrival of the Grand Duke Constantine, who had not returned from Cronstadt. He fills the post of Commander-in-Chief of the Navy, lately occupied by Prince Menschikoff, who has been sent to command the fleet at Sevastopol, and who may there one day pay the penalty, in his person, of the war of which he was one of the principal instigators.

The walls of the drawing-room were covered with oil-paintings, chiefly sea-views, by Russian artists; and there were many paintings laid against the chairs and sides of the room, and water-colour paintings lying on the table; the whole having an appearance of elegant *négligé*, by which I could see that it was used more as a private than as a state-room. An examination of these works of art afforded me some occupation, while I could hear in the distance a band of music playing in the grounds.

I was standing, leaning over a chair and looking out of a window, with my back to the door, when I heard these words, in a pleasing tone and in good English, with a slight foreign accent:—"You are waiting for the Grand Duke, I suppose?" I turned round, and, a little to my confusion, saw three ladies standing close by me. I bowed respectfully to the lady in advance, and replied that I had been directed to meet his Imperial Highness at eight o'clock. The Grand Duchess, for it was no other who now honoured me with her conversation, was accompanied by two of her ladies-in-waiting. Her Imperial Highness said she had heard of my having been very unwell, and expressed a hope that I was better. I replied, that I had only risen from my bed in obedience to the commands of the Grand Duke. Her Imperial Highness then informed me that it was uncertain when the Grand Duke would return; and added, in the most *naïf*

manner, that I might know who was addressing me, "Even I do not know, and I am his wife!" I again bowed, when she said that she should certainly hear if he was detained, and would let me know; she recommended me, in the meanwhile, to wait, saying that she would send me some tea, and the last English newspaper, which had just come to hand. She then retired, with her attendants, by the door at which she had entered, and soon after returned alone, with a copy of the 'Illustrated London News,' which she handed to me, saying, "See! it has not yet been opened, and is the last number received." It was addressed to the Grand Duke, and had not passed under the scrutiny of the Censor; its destination to a member of the Imperial Family being a safeguard from the mutilating scissors of that important functionary.

Her Imperial Highness then retired, and I soon saw her in the garden, walking with her suite. She is a person of very pleasing appearance, rather above the middle height, of sweet and intellectual countenance, and decidedly pretty and engaging. She appeared to be about three-and-twenty, and was dressed with great simplicity in white, with scarcely any ornament except a few tasteful flowers in her white bonnet. The ladies who accompanied her were older than herself; and, although they were certainly beautiful, served to set off her Imperial Highness to advantage, by the gay colours of their dress, in contrast with the simplicity and

elegance of hers. They did not speak while in the room, but as soon as they left I heard them say some words in French, and therefore concluded (as I had been assured) that this was the language of the Court.

Presently a servant entered with the usual tea apparatus,—one tea-pot over another, as already described. I quite enjoyed this refreshing drink, in the thirst which I suffered from the fever: and it was very *à propos*, as I had to wait till ten o'clock. At this hour I heard a stir among the servants in the ante-room, and concluded that his Imperial Highness had just arrived. I looked out of the window, and saw a gentleman in uniform with a lady coming through the garden, followed at some distance by an officer in an aide-de-camp's uniform, with another lady on his arm. Presently the Grand Duke entered alone with his aide-de-camp, and, coming up to me, held out his hand to shake hands; he addressed me in English, hoped I was better, and regretted my having had to wait so long. He then motioned me to enter another apartment, the door of which had just been opened by one of the servants. Here we were left alone, and I was put quite at my ease by his Imperial Highness's affability; he requested me to sit down, and ordered tea and wine, which were brought and set on two separate tables placed by us: he took some wine, and asked me to help myself, while he smoked the amber-mouthed pipe presented to him by the attendant.

The conversation first turned on the loss of the *Tiger*, into the details of which he entered minutely; he was well acquainted with them, having read the official report that I had addressed to the Admiral from Odessa, a copy of which had been forwarded to him; in addition to this, he had the report of the authorities of that city relative to the circumstances that succeeded. He put a number of questions to me; among others, he asked why we had not taken to our boats. I replied, that no naval officer ever thinks of abandoning his ship, and that we had defended the *Tiger*, hoping to the last to get her off the beach, until it was too late to escape in the boats.

His Imperial Highness spoke with earnestness of his voyages to England and in the Mediterranean, and referred to many naval officers whom he had met, naming them, and mentioning them in connection with circumstances that evinced his clear recollection of them.

Referring to Sir William Symonds (whom I think he said he knew), his Imperial Highness remarked that he believed the Russian three-decker the *Twelve Apostles* was a superior vessel to the *Queen*, which that officer had built, inasmuch as the defects said to exist in the latter had been corrected in the former; the stern, for instance, although not so sightly, was more useful and effective, as guns could be fired at it, while it is doubtful whether the *Queen* could sustain the shock. He

also added, that the Twelve Apostles, on repeated trials, had worked to windward, and overtaken their swiftest frigates.

His Imperial Highness spoke of many of the ships in both the English and French navies, comparing them with each other, and appearing to be quite *au fait* on maritime subjects.

CHAPTER XXII.

The exploits of the *Arrogant* and *Hecla*.—Remarks and questions of the Grand Duke.—The Grand Duchess.—Her love of the English language.—First view of the Emperor.—Summoned to his presence.—Prince Lichtenstein.—The Grand Dukes Nicholas and Michael.

I WAS much pleased with the ingenuous manner in which the Grand Duke Constantine spoke of the exploits of the *Arrogant* and *Hecla*. He said, "Have you heard what your countryman has done?" I replied that I had not. "Well," said his Imperial Highness, "of all bold and seaman-like operations, this of Captain Hall's—taking his steamer seven miles up a creek of intricate navigation, in an enemy's country—is the most daring I could have imagined; I cannot but admire such gallantry, even in an enemy."

His Imperial Highness wished to know how it was that Sir Charles Napier carried a blue flag at the main; "For," said he, "by the despatches, I see that he signs only as Vice-Admiral; has he been promoted?" He informed me that he had received that very day a report from Finland, stating that the Duke of Wellington and some other ships had stood in to the coast, whence the

flag he named had been seen at the main. I was not able to account for this circumstance, and suggested that it might have been merely a signal.

His Imperial Highness made a remark to which I could give no reply: he said, "I am sorry the war is not of a more equal character." He then proceeded to complain of the English ships having approached the coast of Finland, carrying the Russian flag, and thus deceiving the land-officers commanding the fortresses, who could not be expected to distinguish between the ships of the adverse navies. I did not feel called upon to enter into a discussion on the right of using such means for misleading an enemy,—a practice which has so many precedents in war. The Grand Duke will have learned by this time, that, when *fighting*, our gallant ships hoist their own flag, under which alone we condescend to fight, and never under false colours.

We had some further conversation on general subjects relating to our profession; the questions he asked were all of them such as I could satisfactorily answer. His observations, and remarks on my replies, were such as any naval officer might make, and quite unrestricted by the difference of our positions.

I find it impossible to recall to mind many of the questions asked by the Grand Duke, on account of the circumstances under which the conversation took place, the state of mind and health under

which I was labouring, and the impossibility of taking notes while in the country; there was one however which now recurs to me. His Imperial Highness wished to know whether the Tiger had formed one of the bombarding squadron at Odessa, and whether, when she struck, we were coming to examine the new batteries that had been erected; he also asked what two steamers had occupied the inshore position of impunity during the attack. These inquiries showed that he was well acquainted with the position of the new batteries, intended to rectify the errors in the construction of the former ones.

While we were thus conversing, the Grand Duchess entered, on which I rose and bowed; the Grand Duke said, "You have already made the acquaintance of my wife." She came forward and referred to the newspaper she had given me, inquiring about its contents. She always spoke to me in English, evincing a desire to acquire that facility of expression which only practice can give; and on her making a slight and very natural error, his Imperial Highness corrected her, as he is perfectly acquainted with the language, which, he informed me, was taught to him and the Imperial Family by Dr. Law, respecting whose health he made some inquiries, and expressed a great esteem for that gentleman.

It was now late (past eleven), and her Imperial Highness doubtless thought it time for our inter-

view to close. She went round and said something to the Grand Duke, on which he used the word *Stoppi*, which, as I have explained, signifies "Proceed," i.e. Let us alone. Her Imperial Highness then left us. I observed that she was now in a different costume: she wore a large Leghorn straw-hat, a rich crimson velvet hoddice fitting quite close, and a white skirt. Soon after her departure, the Grand Duke rose, and, shaking hands, dismissed me, saying he was afraid I must be fatigued.

On going out I found Mr. Sharman, who had wiled away the time in conversation with some of the attendants; and we proceeded to Peterhof in the carriage which had brought us thence. When we reached the palace, we observed a droshky near the gate, and, at a little distance from it, a tall figure in military uniform, wearing a long cloak and a white cap. "There," said Mr. Sharman, "is the Emperor!" We passed on; and this was my first view of his Imperial Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias. He was quite unattended; and my companion assured me that it was his Majesty's custom, often to take his walks alone, at night, about the grounds. On alighting from our carriage, we found that the Chief of the Police had just arrived from St. Petersburg; and, shortly after we had retired, a carriage drove off, bearing the Minister of War, who was proceeding to Alexandria to wait upon his Majesty, that late hour of the night being the time at which the Ministers

transact business with the Emperor. Evidently, no sinecure is enjoyed either by his Majesty or by Prince Dolgorouki.

The next morning (June 25th) I requested Mr. Sharman to inquire whether I was to be presented to the Emperor, or whether the examination I had undergone by the Grand Duke Constantine was all that would be required of me.. He went to Prince Dolgorouki, and soon returned, saying, that we were to wait until the will of the Emperor could be ascertained through the Prime Minister. We therefore waited in my apartments; and, during this interval of an hour and a half, which we wiled away at the window, I saw some of the Finn peasant girls, from a village near Peterhof, passing in groups of a dozen at a time, probably to church. They were dressed in a fanciful costume, the first I had observed since my stay in Russia. They wore red jackets, with white or blue skirts reaching a little below the knee; no shoes, and their legs bandaged as high as the knees with blue and red ribbons, two inches wide; their heads were bare, and their light hair bound with blue and red ribbons. Expressive features, and bright, sparkling blue eyes, animated their countenances. They went along laughing and chatting with great good-humour, and with every appearance of contentment and happiness. I supposed them to belong to the Finn soldiers, who form a regiment quartered at Peterhof.

About half-past ten a messenger came to inform me that my presence was required at the palace, and that a carriage was waiting to convey us. Although we had not a hundred yards to go, we entered the carriage, and were soon at the door of the palace, where I met the Minister of War, who appeared in haste, as if we were late. He ushered me upstairs into a waiting-room, where were a great number of superior officers, waiting to accompany the Emperor and his suite to church. In the hall there were also many officers of a lower rank, belonging to the regiments quartered at Peterhof, and assembled with the same object.

The ante-room was of great dimensions, and presented a remarkable appearance, which I had not observed elsewhere in the rooms of this or any other palace. The walls were covered, from the very top to within five feet of the floor, with paintings of full-sized female faces, in all attitudes, and with every variety of expression. These paintings were in oil, barely three feet by two, placed close together, and without frames, as if let into the wall; the whole had a very pleasing appearance. Prince Lichtenstein, one of the Emperor's aides-de-camp, introduced himself to me, speaking very good English, and kindly begged I would apply to him in case I should require anything during my stay in Russia. Several other officers addressed me, whose names I cannot remember: some spoke French, some English; but

all were assiduous in their endeavours to set me at ease by their polite attentions.

While waiting in the ante-room, two fine young men, evidently very tall for their age, and dressed in generals' uniform, accosted me in excellent English. As I was talking to them, answering their questions, Prince Dolgorouki summoned me to the Emperor's presence; nor did I know till afterwards that they were the two youngest of the Grand Dukes, Nicholas and Michael, who had honoured me with their attention. Their questions were such as a kind interest dictated, and merely referred to my stay in Russia, how I liked what I had seen, etc. I followed the Prince into a small, rather dark apartment; he there introduced me to his Imperial Majesty, and then retired a little distance behind.

CHAPTER XXIII.

The Emperor Nicholas.—The Order of St. George.—Personal appearance of the Emperor.—His kindness of manner.—He grants me my liberty.—Prince Dolgorouki's congratulations.—The Royal Chapel.—Music.—Sir Charles Napier near Cronstadt.—Russian Recruits.—The grounds at Peterhof.

THE Emperor was standing in the middle of the room, dressed in the plain dark-blue uniform of a General-in-Chief, and wore a simple white enamelled cross at the button-hole on his chest. This, I believe, was the cross of the Order of St. George, an honour conferred only upon persons who have rendered important services to their country. I imagine that his Imperial Majesty has not yet assumed the decoration of the highest class of the Order, which is worn by such men as Paskevitch, Woronzoff, etc., and which was described to me as different in size from that worn by the Emperor. I expected to see a fine tall man, but was not prepared to find his Imperial Majesty so much superior to the generality of men in height and appearance. He certainly did not look more than fifty; nor were there any particular signs of care on his countenance, at least not more than one sees

in every man of his age. His features were fine and regular, his head bald in the centre, and his eye expressive of mildness, quite in accordance with his words.

I was aware that his Majesty spoke both English and French, and hoped that he would address me in my native tongue. As I bowed and stepped forward, he addressed me as "Monsieur le Lieutenant," and inquired after my health, whether I had got rid of my fever, and how and where I had caught it. He asked me about the loss of the Tiger, and inquired why we had not anchored, being so near the land. I replied that the fog was very thick, and that by our reckoning we were some distance from land when the vessel struck. He asked if I was married, made some kind inquiries respecting the family of my late Captain, and informed me that Mrs. Giffard was gone to Odessa, to join her husband, not having heard of his death.

His Imperial Majesty then said, that it had been his intention to grant the Captain his liberty; but as that was now impossible, he would extend that grace to me as the next in command, and asked me how I should like to go home.

I was quite taken aback by this announcement, as although I had been told at Odessa that I should have my liberty, still I did not anticipate that it would be granted so soon and so freely. I was therefore unprepared to answer the question as to

my intended route, and said that I really had not thought of it; upon which his Imperial Majesty burst into a fit of laughter, much amused at my surprise and embarrassment, and said, "Allez donc, pensez-y, (Go and think about it,) and let me know this evening, through the Minister of War, what road you would like to take." He then bowed me out of the room, turning to the Prince, to whom he made some remark in Russian, and the latter followed me.

When we were in the outer room the Prince shook hands with me, congratulating me on my release, and said, "I suppose we shall not again see you against us?" and on joining the other officers in the hall, I received their congratulations also, one of them telling me that they knew very well a week previously that I was to have my release; still it had not transpired, to my knowledge. I gladly accepted the offer of Prince Dolgorouki, to fall in with the *cortége* of his Imperial Majesty, who was preparing to attend Divine service in the chapel of the palace.

As we were conversing, the Emperor, leading the Empress, and followed by the rest of the Imperial Family and their suite, passed on their way to the chapel, and we closed in the procession. I should have felt a delicacy in thrusting myself forward, had not Prince Dolgorouki kindly taken me by the arm and led me into the chapel, in which the Imperial Family had taken their places, so that I was

within twenty yards of the altar; the rest of the officers in attendance were outside, in a room that opens into the chapel by a small door, and where, as I was informed, I should have been unable to hear the music.

The Empress occupied a seat to my left; the rest of the assembly standing during the service. Her Majesty was evidently suffering from ill-health, and only rose occasionally during particular parts: the ladies of the Court were behind her and the Emperor. The Imperial Family were to the right, on the opposite side of the chapel, with the General officers behind them; the Ministers stood in the centre, where I was. Three arches, supported by square columns, separated the Imperial Family from their suites. The service was conducted by two priests, arrayed in gorgeous robes of green and gold, with mitres on their heads. One stood within the screen of the altar, the centre door of which was open; and the other in the chapel, outside the screen, holding a book, from which he read portions of the Scriptures. The service was chanted, and sometimes sung, by a choir of fifty men and boys of all ages, placed twenty-five on each side of the altar, facing each other. There was no instrumental music, but it was some time before I could feel certain of this fact; for such was the intonation, and the various voices were so perfectly harmonized, as to imitate the swelling tones of an organ, which imparted a striking solemnity to the perfor-

mance. At times the screen was closed,—during the consecration of the Eucharist, I suppose; at other times two assistants entered from side-doors, with censers of burning incense, which they handed to the priest; the latter, taking them, swung them three times towards the congregation, who repeatedly crossed themselves; and this, with the repetition of a few words (*Kyrie eleison*), was all the part that the congregation took in the service and responses. Once during the service I was honoured with the observation of the Emperor; at another time the eyes of all the persons present were turned towards me: they were, no doubt, praying for a release from their enemies.

The service concluded, the Ministers and Generals went out of the chapel into the room in which the other officers had remained; and we all drew up in a line on one side, whilst the ladies formed the other side of the avenue through which the Imperial Family returned to their apartments.

The courtiers now dispersed, some loitering behind; among these was Prince Lichtenstein, who renewed his conversation with me, and, while thus engaged, a gentleman came up and requested to be introduced to me. He was a naval officer and aide-de-camp to the Grand Duke Constantine; I regret to say that I cannot remember his name. He spoke good English, and, after the usual preliminaries of conversation, said, “Your countrymen are determined to pay us a visit; they are only

five miles off." This was the first intimation I received of Sir Charles Napier being so near Cronstadt. I replied, that I had no doubt my countrymen would do their best, and visit them before long; they laughed, but the general feeling among those with whom I spoke during my stay in Russia, appeared to be one of regret at the rupture of amicable relations.

I took leave of these gentlemen, and proceeded with Mr. Sharman to take a walk in the grounds of the palace. Here, drawn up in a line, were some hundred recruits, in the usual great-coat of the soldiers, waiting to be inspected by the Emperor; I was told that it is his Imperial Majesty's custom to examine each man, test his physical capabilities by tapping him on the chest, etc., and assign to each that part of the service to which he may deem him best adapted. The coat worn by the soldier conceals his real figure; I am inclined to think that, if deprived of this outer clothing, Russian troops would not present so imposing an aspect as they do on a cursory view.

The grounds we visited were at the back of the palace, and were laid out with much care and taste. We next proceeded to the gardens in front, which are separated from the palace by the high-road, running on a terrace some eighty feet above the grounds. From this terrace there is a slope, down which flows a cascade, over blue tiles, and appearing to emerge from under the road. The cascade

is ornamented with gilt figures of Cupid, water-nymphs, etc. Descending by a zigzag path at the side of the waterfall, we reached the gardens below. Here is an immense circular basin, in the centre of which, on a small island, is a gilt sculpture representing Samson tearing open the lion's mouth; and from the latter issues a jet that rises above the height of the road, even with the palace windows. This jet is surrounded by a great many others, all round the basin, as well as in different parts of the grounds. A canal from the Gulf of Finland communicates, in a straight line, with the large basin, and on each side of it rise numberless jets. I have not seen the waterworks at Versailles, but I have been assured that these rival them in grandeur.

There are also many ingenious contrivances with the water, to amuse and astonish beholders; one of these struck me as quite novel: small pipes are laid along the trunk and branches of a tree, and coloured so as not to be observable; and from the ends of these innumerable tubes water is suddenly emitted, so that the tree appears to weep over the fountain below, shedding tears from every leaf. By another contrivance a globe of water is suddenly formed over a seat occupied by a chance passenger, who looks as if under a glass shade. A third is so arranged, that on a person taking a seat in a tempting spot, his weight presses on a spring, by which water is made to flow upon him in all directions, and he thus gets a shower-bath *volens*

volens. Such practical jokes amuse the visitors; the ideas were borrowed from the Italians, in whose gardens I have seen contrivances of the same kind.

At the further end of the grounds, close to the water, stands "Mon Plaisir"—a very pretty flower-garden, surrounding the cottage of Peter the Great. In this are religiously preserved all kinds of relics of this Minos of the North. The cottage consists of five or six rooms on the ground-floor; and in it are kept the furniture used by the monarch, his bed and accoutrements, a pair of shoes he made for the Empress, some wooden bowls turned by himself, and other specimens of the handicraft of the Imperial workman. These grounds are entirely open to the public, who come from far and near to pass the day in them.

CHAPTER XXIV.

Interview with Prince Dolgorouki.—Return to St. Petersburg.
—General Sitinin.—Visit of Colonel Montandro.—Another
attack of fever and ague.—Leave St. Petersburg.—Preobra-
jenskaja.—Degouzy.—Concourse of people on the road.—Na-
ture of the country.—Kovno.—Itinerary of the route from
St. Petersburg to Warsaw.—Expenses of travelling. . .

ON leaving the palace grounds, we returned to our rooms and dined; soon after, I received a message from the Minister of War, expressing a desire to see me. I proceeded at once into his presence. He again congratulated me on my release, and added, that his Imperial Majesty had ordered him to present me with a sword, which he trusted would not be unwelcome from its being *Russian*, as they had not an English one to give me in place of mine. He hoped it would serve as a memorial of the treatment I had met with in Russia; and concluded by observing, that he had no doubt I should speak well of them, and assure my countrymen that they were not such barbarians as the papers had represented them. He shook hands with me, making use of some kind and complimentary expressions, in which “mutual esteem and regard” predominated, and said that I should be duly informed of

the Emperor's decision as to the route by which I should return to England. He then asked me if I wished to return to St. Petersburg that evening; and on my saying that such was my desire; he replied, that a carriage should be ready for me whenever I chose to go. I took my leave, and about seven o'clock started with Mr. Sharman for our hotel in the Rue des Écuries.

The road is remarkably good all the way, and the country dotted with villas, which at this season were occupied by the gentry from St. Petersburg. On each side of the way, for some considerable distance from Peterhof, are a number of thatched cottages, in which soldiers are billeted; at the door of each cottage may be seen a long pole, like a fishing-rod, at the extremity of which hangs a hoop, with a number of tufts of straw, denoting the number of men quartered in the house—seven or eight to each. Russia is supposed to swarm with soldiers, yet, strange to say, although I crossed the country from one end to another, I could not help remarking the apparent paucity of troops. I saw a few soldiers here and there, but do not recollect ever seeing as many as three hundred together, until we reached the environs of Warsaw, where some regiments were quartered; there I saw them drilling. "

On the next day (June 26th) I received instructions to go to General Sitinin, who informed me of the route that I was to take; which was, by way

of Warsaw, where I should find my passport ready for me, to cross the Russian frontier into Austria. On making some inquiries respecting the fate of my servant, whom I supposed to have been liberated like myself, and who was desirous of going to Odessa, whence he could reach Malta sooner than if he accompanied me to England, I was informed that the Emperor's grace did not extend to him; but a few days after, I was told that his Imperial Majesty, in consideration of my ill-health, and the use my servant might be on the road, had been pleased to order his release also, that he might accompany me.

As the 28th was the day appointed for my departure, we began at once to make preparations for the journey; Mr. Sharman went to look at a carriage which the Government proposed to buy for our use, and in the evening I took tea with Dr. Law, who was delighted to hear of the happy result of my visit to the Emperor.

The next day (June 27th), in the morning I made some little purchases, and afterwards dined with Dr. Law. In the evening Colonel Montandre called to see Mr. Sharman, to make arrangements to enable him to leave me the next day, that he might visit his family before we set off. I therefore took leave of my kind and excellent friends this evening (27th), under the impression that I should take my departure from St. Petersburg on the morrow as appointed, and retired to rest.

On the following morning (28th) the fever renewed its attack with its usual violence, and I was compelled to keep my bed. I was visited by the Colonel and the General's aides-de-camp, and a Russian doctor was called in to make his report on the state of my health. This was the fourth disciple of *Æsculapius* with whose visits I had been honoured since my arrival in Russia, and he decided that it would not be proper for me to be moved that day. Seeing the anxiety of the Colonel and the aides-de-camp that I should depart, in order that the Emperor's commands should be fulfilled to the letter, I declared that I should be ready to do so at all events on the following day.

On the 29th, being much better, Colonel Montandre, who had ordered dinner to be ready by five o'clock, dined with me, while Mr. Sharman went to take leave of his friends; this dinner, like every other provided for me during my stay in Russia, was all that I could wish.

Mr. Sharman returned at seven o'clock, with his wife, who came to see him off; and precisely at eight we shook hands with the gallant Colonel and entered our carriage, which was of a similar description to that in which we had left Odessa, only larger and more convenient.

The road was good, the weather fine, and we started under the best auspices, with the intention of travelling night and day till we reached War-

saw. But on the next day, suffering severely from another attack of fever, I found myself compelled to stop at a village called Preobrajenskaja, eighty miles on our road. Here we remained six hours, to allow the fever to subside, and then proceeded; but I was so much overcome by the fatigue of travelling, and the lassitude consequent on the violent attacks of the fever, that I may well be excused for having no definite recollection of anything on the way until Sunday the 2nd of July, when we reached a place called Degouzy, where was a large post-house and an inn. Here we found that the fore-axletree of the carriage had given way, and that it was necessary to get it repaired. The only man however who could do this for us was absent, and we had to wait till he could be sent for. The repairs of the carriage occupied him till eight in the evening, when we resumed our persevering efforts to reach Warsaw.

The road was crowded with carriages of all kinds, going to and coming from Warsaw. Sometimes we met, and sometimes overtook, as many as thirty or forty waggons loaded with provisions and ammunition for the troops, as was evident from a few soldiers who escorted them; and we frequently saw couriers hurrying to or from St. Petersburg, with the alacrity of men charged with important despatches. The country we passed is much more thickly wooded than that between Odessa and Moscow; often we traversed forests, the trees how-

ever being always small. The road was beautifully straight, and all the way I could see preparations for erecting an electric telegraph, to supplant the old-fashioned telegraph, which was still in use to convey important intelligence to St. Petersburg. At the latter stations people are located, who are charged with keeping the roads in repair; and at every twenty miles or so we saw a little cottage, pleasantly situated, and surrounded with a small garden, for the residence of the superintendent. Here and there we saw an old soldier overlooking a dozen men, women, and children, employed in sweeping the dust off the road. The country is nowhere dreary, and the land appeared highly cultivated; we frequently passed towns, villages, detached farms, post-houses, etc.,

On Monday, the 3rd of July, we reached Kovno, 699 versts from St. Petersburg, and on the frontiers of Poland.

By an itinerary which I obtained at the Post-office, I find that the postal regulations are as follows:—From St. Petersburg to Kovno, 699 versts, the tariff is $2\frac{1}{2}$ kopeks per horse for each verst, except the first seventeen versts, for which are paid three kopeks. From Kovno to Warsaw the charge is five kopeks per horse for each verst. In addition to these sums the driver receives a small gratuity for his trouble, regulated according to the passenger's appreciation of his driving. Two and a half kopeks are equal to one penny English. By

another reference to this tariff, I find that if three horses be required, the expense of travelling by carriage is nearly double that which would be paid by railway in Poland. I calculate that in Russia it is $4\frac{1}{2}d.$ a mile for the use of three horses, and in Poland double that rate. But by railway the expense is only $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ a mile from Warsaw; and on the road from Moscow to St. Petersburg it is, I believe, only $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ a mile.

CHAPTER XXV.

Enter Poland.—Deliberate travelling.—Great demand for horses.
 —A Russian officer proceeding to join his regiment.—Lomza.
 —Interruptions on the road.—Arrival at Warsaw.—Cross the
 Vistula.—Count Rüdiger.—Arrangements for departure.—
 Search for my passport.—Take leave of Mr. Sharman.

WE crossed the river Niemen by the bridge of boats, and entered the kingdom of Poland. The country did not appear to be so highly cultivated as that which we had just left, though we still traversed vast forests of small trees, such as we had seen in Russia. The road was equally good, and evidently under the same regulations; here and there were farm-houses and villages.

In Russia, when three horses are used, the centre one is between the shafts; but in Poland there is only one pole to the carriage, on each side of which a horse is harnessed, and the third horse is attached to the left; so that, the Russian harness differing from that to which the postilions were accustomed, there was always something wrong on our first starting from every post-house, and this considerably delayed our journey.

The drivers in Poland carry a bugle, with which

they announce their approach to the most distant object on the road, driving up in the meanwhile with all the solemnity possible; at such times nothing could arouse them from their apathy. Considering the good road, they might drive at a much more rapid rate without injury to their horses, but they scarcely ever exceeded seven or eight miles an hour. Perhaps they had good reason to be careful of these poor animals, as I found them much in request. In one instance, when we had succeeded in persuading our driver to overtake and pass a carriage on the road, we arrived at a post-house where we found only three horses for relay in the stables. The carriage which we had outstripped also stopped at this place, and two others from Warsaw, each requiring a change of five horses. The three that were in the stables had been secured by us; the other parties consequently had to seek in the village for a loan of horses to take them the next stage. The post-masters often complained that they could not supply as many as were wanted, particularly as of late the couriers had been more frequent in their journeys and more urgent in their demands.

When we left St. Petersburg we were accosted by a Russian officer, who, like ourselves, was driving to Warsaw in a carriage, accompanied by his servant, to join a regiment of Lancers, in which he had lately obtained a commission. He told me that he had been in the Russian army before, but

had retired, and now only resumed active service in consequence of the war which had broken out. As we were going the same way, we naturally often passed and re-passed each other. At last, while we were repairing our axletree at Degouzy, he got half a day ahead of us, and we did not expect to see him again; but somehow or other he too got into difficulties, his carriage having broken down, and we passed him in the night; so that, on our arrival in the evening of the 4th of July at Lomza, we were surprised to see the well-known vehicle, with the luggage piled above it, make its appearance at the same hotel where we alighted.

In this town we saw more soldiers than in any place we had previously passed. A crowd of persons collected, desirous of seeing me, and I was accosted by many of the bystanders, who spoke to me in French, and were curious to know the particulars of my sojourn in Russia, and of my release.

On the 4th of July, about two or three o'clock in the morning, I was awoke in the carriage, when it stopped to change horses, by the sound of a woman's voice, in a sweet, supplicating tone. I looked out, and found that Mr. Sharman and my servant had already been tempted to accede to the woman's entreaty, which was to buy some trinkets in amber which she offered for sale. I thought her industry in attending at the post-house at so early an hour was deserving of reward, and I laid out a few roubles to encourage her.

On the 5th we overtook several batteries of large guns going to Warsaw. Although we had secured spare linch-pins for our carriage, these were constantly breaking; we often found the fore-wheel get loose and roll into the ditch, and had to stop to replace it. With the exception of these mishaps, which fortunately occurred in the day-time, nothing particular happened until we reached Warsaw, about one o'clock P.M. on the 5th of July. When we crossed the old wooden bridge over the Vistula, I was not at all sorry to see our journey so far accomplished, for the last fifty miles had appeared to me interminable. We drove straight to the quarters of Count Rüdiger, the Commander-in-Chief of the troops and Governor of the city; from thence we were sent to the house of an old General, who was charged with the duty of despatching me on my way to the frontier. I was informed that there would be a train for Mislowitz in the evening at five o'clock, and by this I resolved to proceed; we then went to the police authorities, who promised that my passport should be sent to me in time at the Hôtel d'Angleterre, where we put up in the interval.

Having taken a hasty dinner, and lost my patience at the non-arrival of my passport, I started with Mr. Sharman in search of it. He, poor man, had throughout the journey evinced an immense deal of patience and forbearance in all my difficulties, and was not now wanting in sympathy with

me. After driving from place to place until past five o'clock, we discovered the important personage to whose care my passport had been confided, but who had forgotten to complete the requisite formalities of *visa*, etc.; he had the document in his pocket, and coolly produced it as evidence of its existence. I was so put out by this useless delay, that I returned to the hotel and took to my bed with vexation, instead of going to the Opera, which I now regret. The Opera had been especially recommended to me for its ballet, which Mr. Sharman assured me the Poles are very fond of,—Terpsichore being the goddess to whom they now pay their devotions, for want of a higher source of excitement.

The next morning, Thursday, 6th of July, about seven o'clock, we went to the railway station, accompanied by a commissary of police, who handed me my passport; and here I took leave of my excellent friend Mr. Sharman, the companion of my travels over so many miles, and for whose unceasing care of me during so many trials I shall ever entertain the most grateful remembrance. He had done everything in his power to lighten and alleviate the tediousness of the road over which we had passed, and was never backward in doing anything that could contribute to my comfort. I only hope that his Government will duly appreciate his delicacy of conduct towards one so perfectly a stranger to him; and that other prisoners in Russia

may meet with an equally considerate guardian. Jealous as the Russian Government is supposed to be of the opinion that strangers form of the country, no one could have been better adapted to set their principles of government in a favourable light than Mr. Sharman, who, throughout the intimacy that necessarily accrued between two men living so much together as we did, never failed to do credit to the Government which had consigned me to his care.

CHAPTER XXVI.

Leave Warsaw.—An officious fellow-passenger.—Petrikaw.—Czenstochowa.—A spy.—Custom-house.—Export of silver.—The Police-agent.—Szczakowa.—Mislowitz.—Breslau.—The Opera there.—Mdle. Wagner.—Berlin.—Hanover.—Cologne.—Calais.—Old England.

I LEFT Warsaw at half-past seven in the morning ; the weather was very unfavourable, as it rained the whole day. The carriage in which I travelled was that in which smoking was permitted ; many gentlemen, and some ladies who did not mind the smoking, gave this vehicle the preference because it was not generally so crowded as the others. Next to me sat a person, not in uniform, who was particularly civil in his attentions, and endeavoured with his bad French to lead me into conversation concerning the Emperor, Government, etc.,—topics which I religiously avoided during my residence in the country. He was so awkward in his manner of pumping me, that I immediately suspected that he was a spy, who had been sent to see me clear out of the country, and endeavour to ascertain my opinions. Of course I did not allow him to perceive that I was on my guard against him ; on the

contrary, we talked on as passengers might do until the train stopped, when he got out and pressed me to take some refreshment; but I thanked him for his politeness, and declined. At Petrikaw I got out to dine, and contrived to evade him, having my dinner quietly alone, although he sat in the same room. At last the man became so troublesome that I pretended to go to sleep, to avoid his obtrusiveness.

When we reached Czenstochowa he got out of the train to speak to an officer who was standing on the platform, and then returned and asked me if I would step out and be introduced to General Berman, or some such name, with which request I of course complied. We had not much time for conversation, as the train was proceeding; the General entered one of the carriages and went with us as far as Koziegłow, where there was a carriage with four horses and a guard of cavalry waiting to escort him and his staff-officers.

The obsequious manner in which I had seen the man address the General confirmed me in my suspicions of him; and when we arrived at the last station on the Russian frontier, all doubt on the subject was removed, by his drawing from a carpet-bag, that he had under the seat, his uniform, which he put on, and which I recognized immediately as that of a police-agent.

We reached the frontier station about nine o'clock, and had to remain there until the follow-

ing morning. My luggage was passed into a room to be examined by a custom-house officer, and I had to go to look after it ; while so doing, a stranger very kindly offered me assistance in facilitating the examination of my portmanteau, and I willingly availed myself of his proffered kindness, in order to avoid the officiousness of the other man. While the custom-house officer was inspecting my luggage, I entered into conversation with my new friend, who was a Pole, and spoke English well ; he whispered to me, " Do you know who that man is, close to you ? " I said that I had found him out long ago. " Well," resumed this gentleman, " you had better be careful what you say to him." Fortunately the precaution was needless, and the man was quite at liberty to make the most of any sentiments I had expressed, which indeed were generally favourable, and in accordance with what I have since written, unfettered by Russian surveillance.

On examining my servant's box, a bag of silver coins was found ; and as the export of silver is prohibited in Russia, there was some demur ; upon which my Polish friend called out, that it was a " numismatic collection." " Well," said the officer, " let us see this collection." So I first showed them a Turkish five-piastre piece (*beshtic*), which they examined carefully ; then an English five-shilling piece ; and rang the changes with smaller pieces of English and Turkish mouny, till they were

quite satisfied. The collection consisted of money which my servant had not spent in Turkey, and which was not current in Russia; they had, therefore nothing to do with it, as it was not coin of the realm. Next came a large packet of old private letters, open, which I expected would cause me some trouble; but my friend exerted himself, and, being a man known there, got me through all my difficulties. I was allowed to take what I required for the night out of my portmanteau, and it was then stowed away in the office till we should start the next day, at five in the morning. I was conducted to the largest hotel in the place, by the Pole, who saw me established in a room with two beds; he took his leave, saying that he would be at the office in the morning, to assist me in taking out my ticket; and he kept his word. I regret that I was not permitted to know the name of the person who thus gratuitously showed me so much attention.

The police-agent took up his abode in a room which opened just opposite to mine. He paid me repeated visits, excusing himself however for depriving me of his good company by saying he had some friends to supper, and asked me to join them. But I felt I could well dispense with his civilities, and wished him anywhere else. About eleven o'clock he came in again, and asked me, with many expressions of politeness and excuses for disturbing me, if I would allow a bed to be put up for him in

the corner of my room, as there was no other place in the hotel! Knowing who my man was, I of course felt that it would be useless to object; so I put the best face I could on the matter, and he installed himself accordingly. When in bed, I saw the man come in (I suspect, not over sober), lock the door, throw himself on his bed in his clothes, and attempt to read; but he soon fell asleep. I then got up, unlocked the door, took the paper out of his hand, and extinguished the light.

The next morning (July 7th) I rose at four, called my servant, dressed, and, without waking the police-agent, sallied out and settled my hotel account at the door. The railway station was only a few yards off, and there, according to promise, I met the kind Pole, who procured me the necessary tickets, and we entered the carriage forthwith. Just as the train was starting, I caught sight of my janitor of the previous night, who had just awoke in time to rush to the carriage-door, with his coat hurriedly buttoned over him, and his braces hanging down; he came to see that I really *did leave* the territory of his Imperial Majesty the Autocrat of all the Russias.

In half an hour we reached a town in the Austrian dominions, which I believe is called Niwke, or Szczakowa*, where our passports were *visé*, our luggage again examined, weighed, and charged

* *Sz* is pronounced as the English *sh*, and *cz* as *tch*; the name of this town is pronounced *Shtchakova*.

for. After about an hour's delay, we proceeded to Mislowitz, or Mislowici, in Prussia, where we underwent the same kind of ordeal, our luggage being examined and our passports *visé* before, we were allowed to proceed. I had to pay the police charges, and take fresh tickets, on leaving each State. As Polish money will not pass in Austria, nor Austrian in Prussia, I had to get change at a considerable loss, in order to pay the officials in the coin of their country; and, on my arrival at Breslau, I had a handful of money so useless that I got rid of it as I best could; having also Russian notes, which are prohibited in Prussia, I had to dispose of them to money-changers for what the latter chose to give me.*

We reached Breslau about one o'clock, and remained there till nine at night. I put myself in the hands of a Jew *commissionnaire*, who ciceroned me over this well-known city, arranging so that I could go to the Opera, which opens at six, and promised to see my servant and traps in the railway station, and call for me in time to start by the nine o'clock train. The station was near the Opera, so

* It is related that a gentleman, having occasion to travel on the Continent, put a sovereign in a purse separately; and, when he arrived in a new State, he exchanged it for the money of the country, which he put aside to be changed at the next frontier; and so on till he returned to England, when he found his sovereign reduced to fourpence halfpenny: yet he was told that he would gain by taking English sovereigns with him!

that I was not uneasy, and quite enjoyed 'Tancredi,' which was exquisitely got up in this charming house. I had the good fortune to hear Mademoiselle Wagner, about whom so much has been said, and on whose account so much money has been wasted between Gye and Lumley.

We reached Berlin at half-past four in the morning of the 8th of July, and left again at seven, passed through Magdeburg, Hanover, and Cologne, reached Calais about two o'clock in the afternoon of the 9th, and thence crossed to Dover, glad to set foot once more in

JOLLY OLD ENGLAND!

THE END.



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